

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

80



WARRIORS: PART 2

BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA

MARVEL®

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

New York City's underworld is in chaos. An intense federal investigation of mob boss Wilson "The Kingpin" Fisk's criminal dealings has left the mob boss' territory ripe for the taking. Knowing Fisk's iron grip on New York's underworld was weakened, rival mobster Allan Silvermane sought out the help of the mutant enforcer Hammerhead to take down The Kingpin once and for all. However, instead of joining forces with Silvermane, Hammerhead brutally murdered the aged gangster and decided to strike at Kingpin on his own.

Hammerhead's first move was to destroy a warehouse owned by a Fisk Corporation subsidiary. The explosion and subsequent fire caught the attention of Spider-Man, who rushed to the scene. Before he could investigate, Spider-Man was violently confronted by Moon Knight, a mysterious vigilante who mistakenly believes that Spider-Man is responsible for the destruction of the warehouse!

Writer
Brian Michael Bendis

Penciler
Mark Bagley

Inker
Scott Hanna

Colorist
J.D. Smith

Letterer
Chris Eliopoulos

Production
Deborah Weinstein

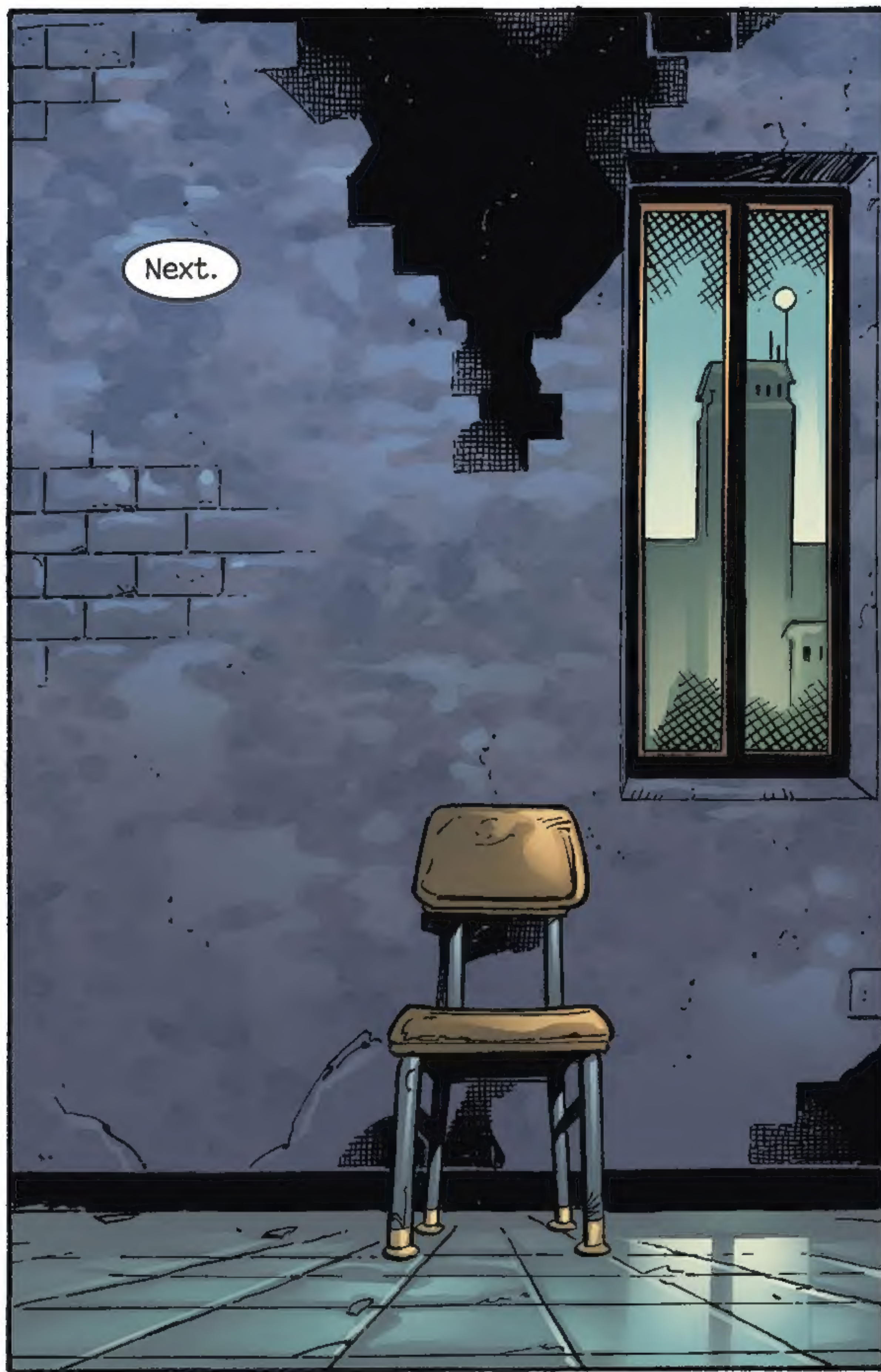
Assistant Editors
John Barber & Nicole Wiley

Editor
Ralph Macchio

Editor in Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

Cover: Mark Bagley & Richard Isanove



Next.



Daniel Rand?

Danny.



You've served four months of the six-month sentence. Your behavior reports are exceptional.

Can we assume you have learned the error of your ways?

Yes, ma'am.

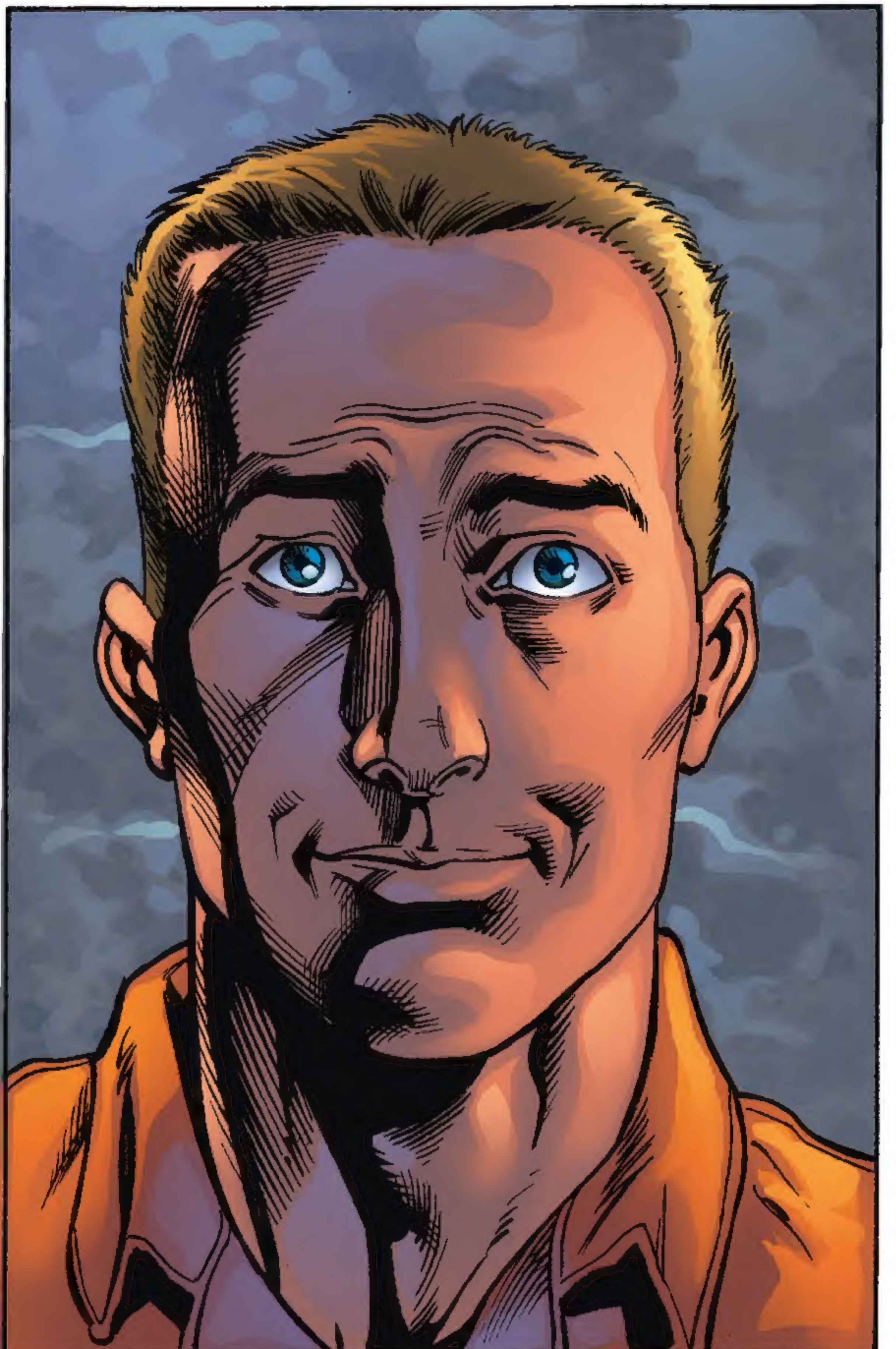
You are in here for attacking a man with your- it says here- is this right?

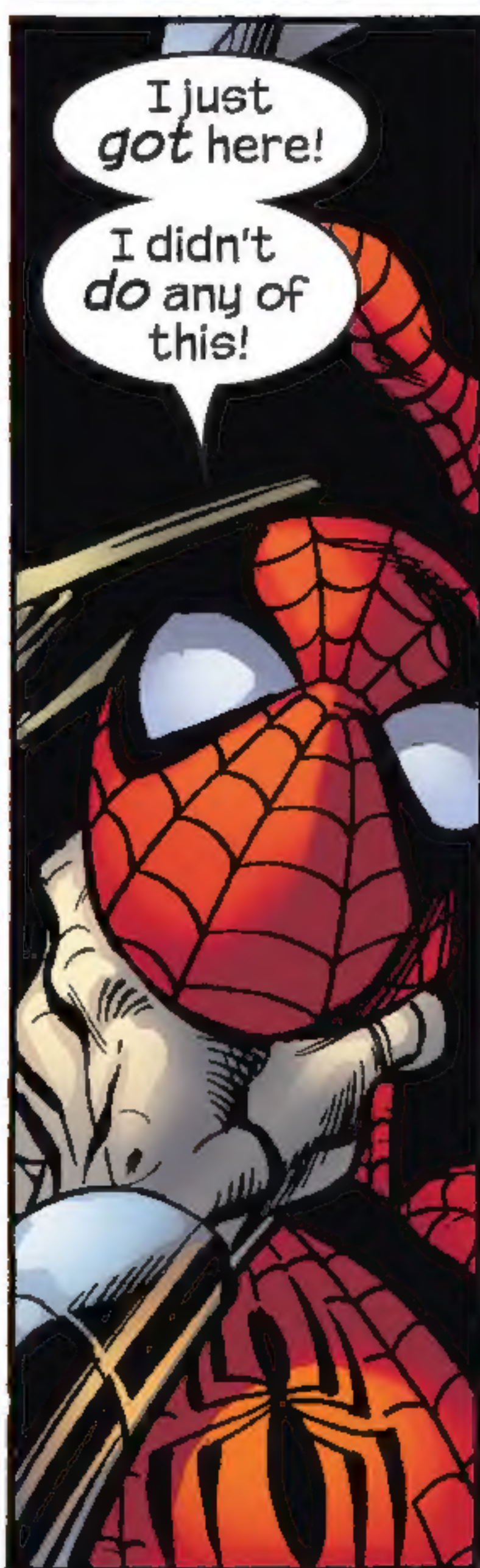


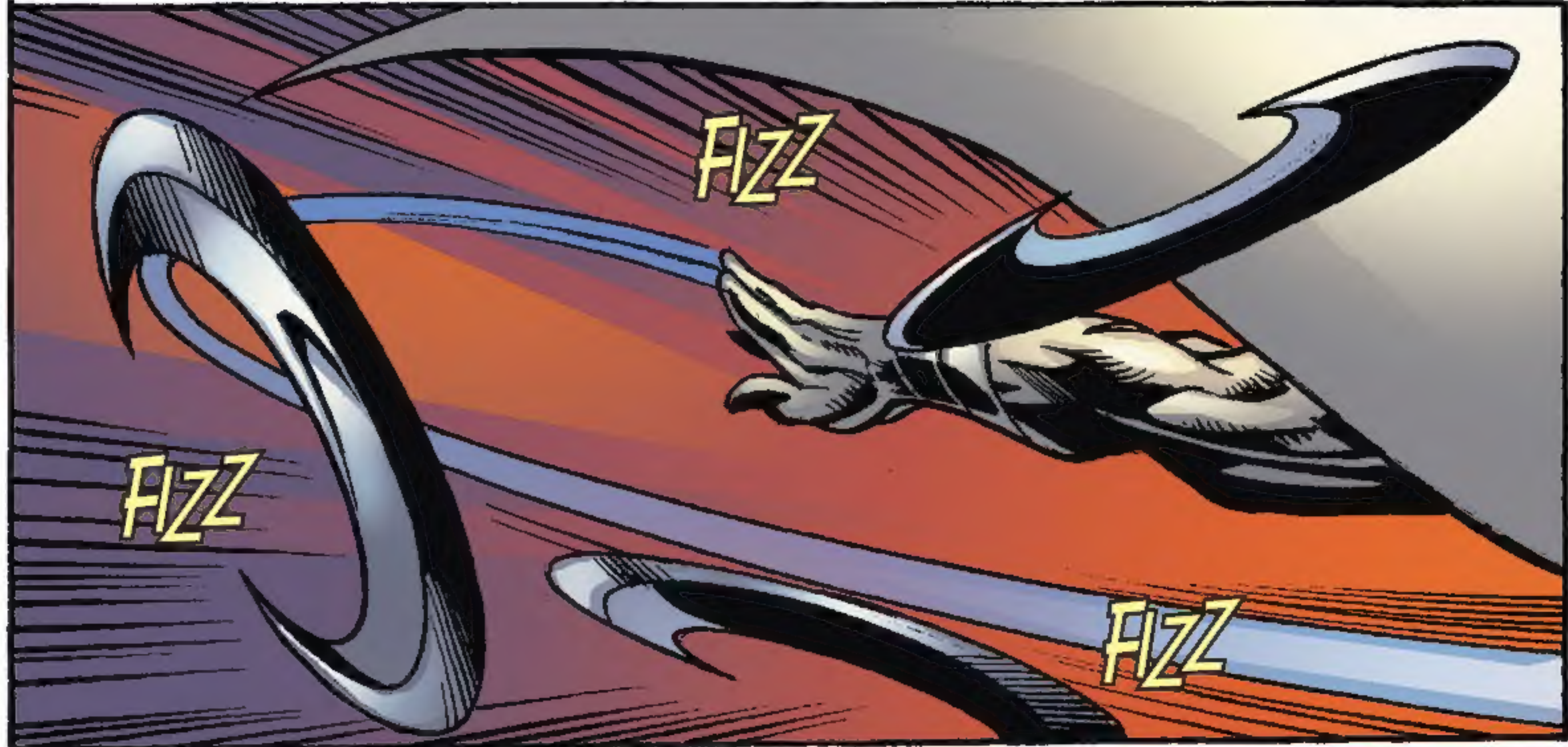
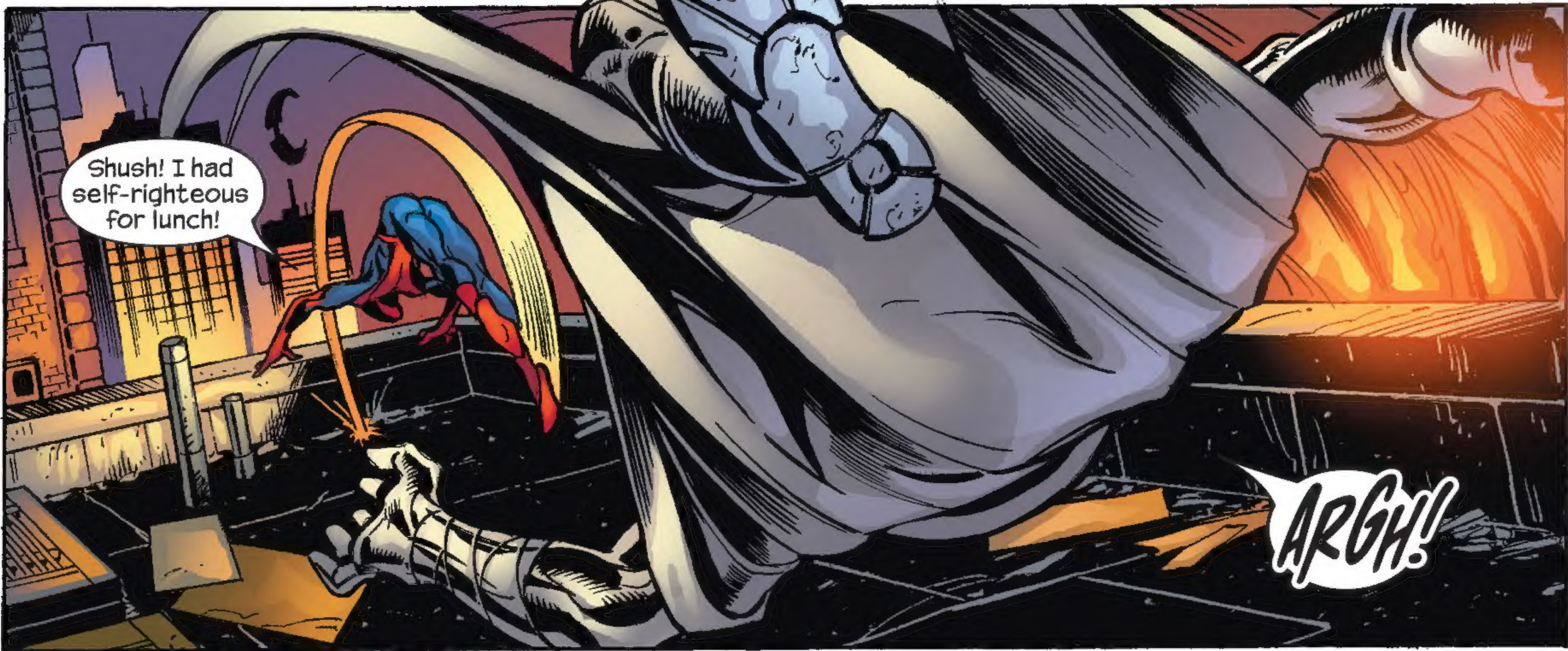
Iron fist.
Yes, ma'am.

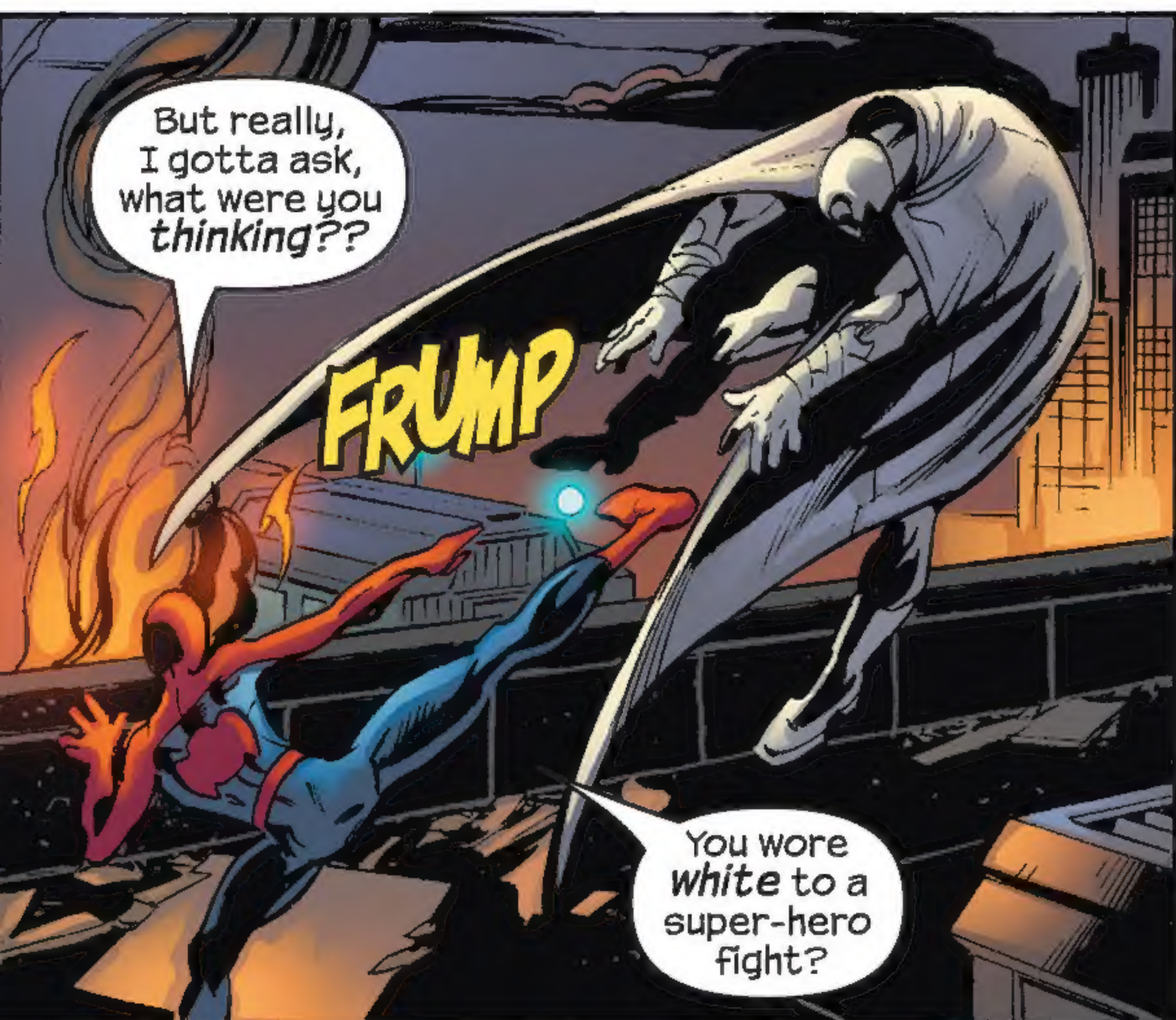
Is that some sort of slang?

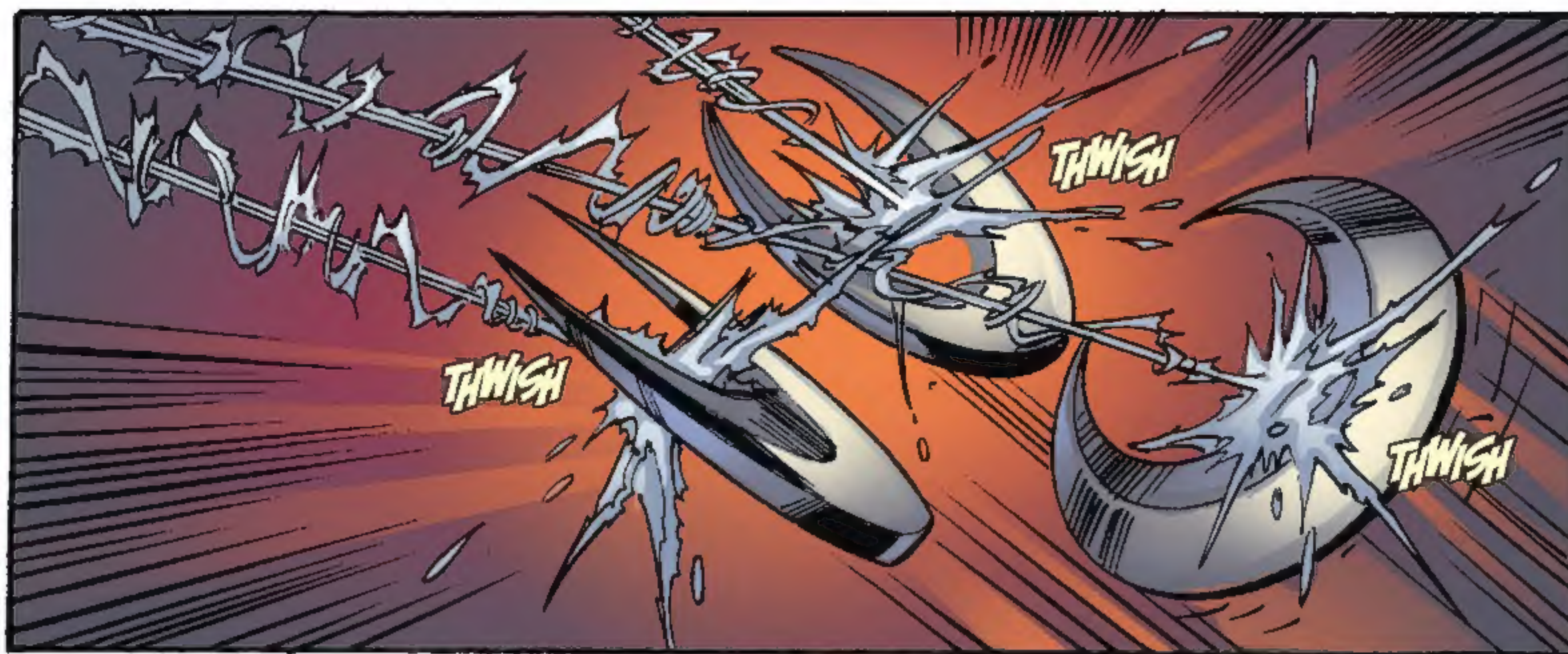
No, ma'am.











Hey, you make these moon things yourself or do you order them special?

Those are mine.

Until you threw them at me.

Now they're mine.



How old are you?



It certainly does *seem* like Spider-Man.

He's jumping around and he won't stop talking.

It's those head-to-toe costumes. It makes it hard to accurately report to you if it is *actually* him.

Best guess? Yes.



You finding anything on this Moon Knight yet?

No. I'm not going to engage this.

They're taking care of themselves.

The authorities are almost here.



Cool, now the police are here to shoot at me.

WEEEOOOOWWWWWEEEOOOOWWWWWEEEO



DAILY BUGLE

MOONMAN COMETH



Duis autem vel eum iriure
velit esse molestie consequat
nulla facilisis at vero eros
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SILVER DEAD



Allan Silverman

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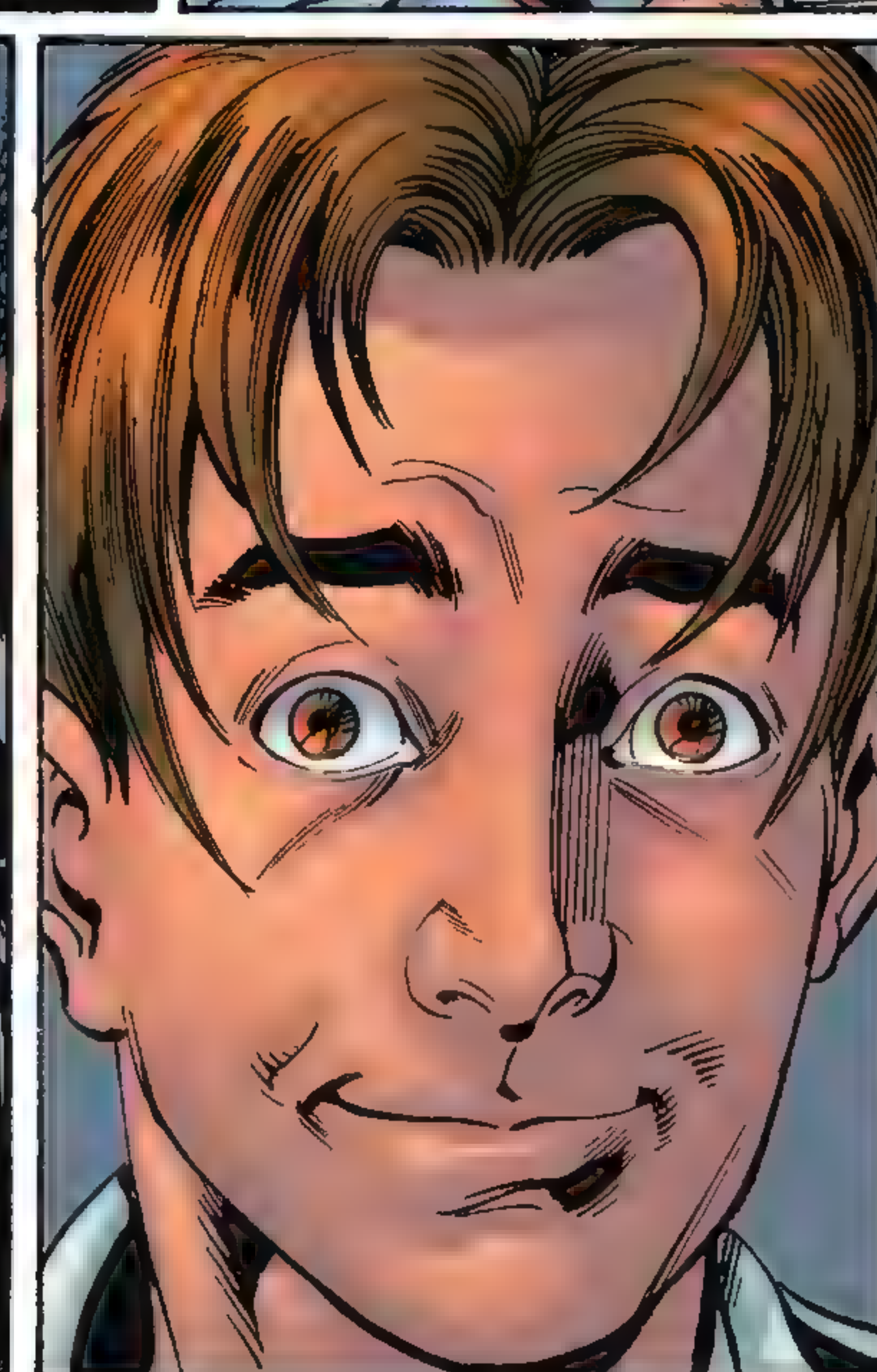
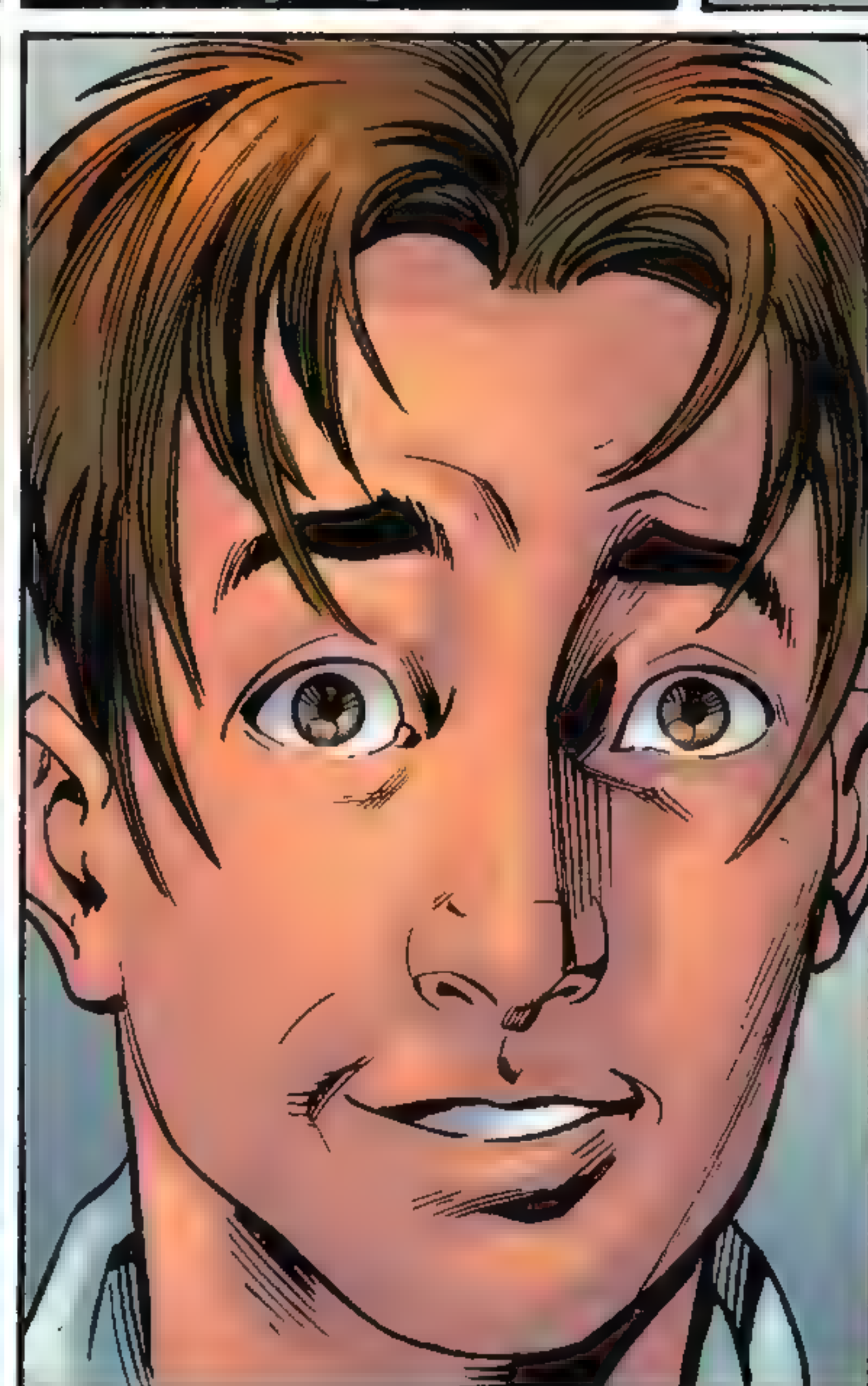
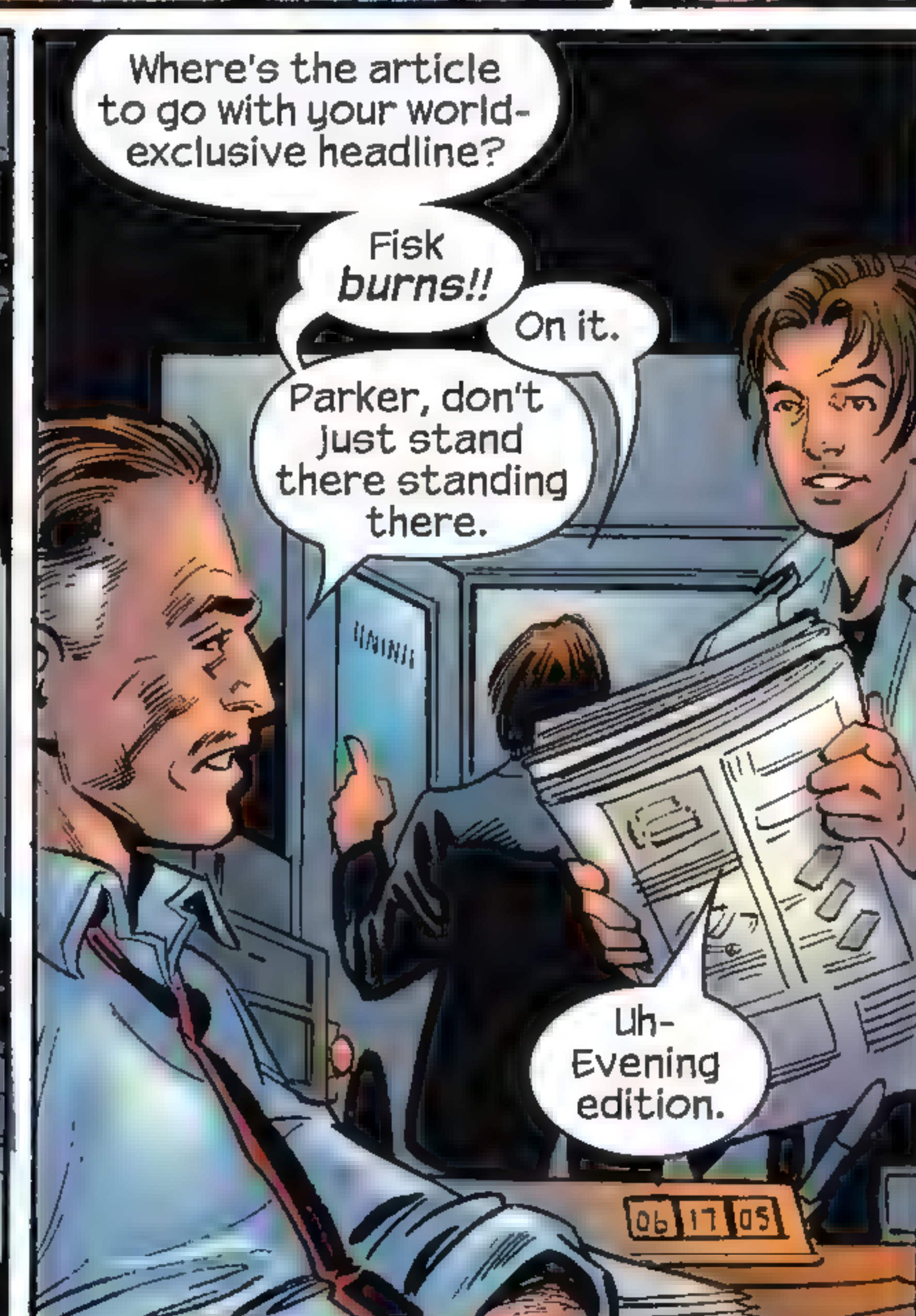
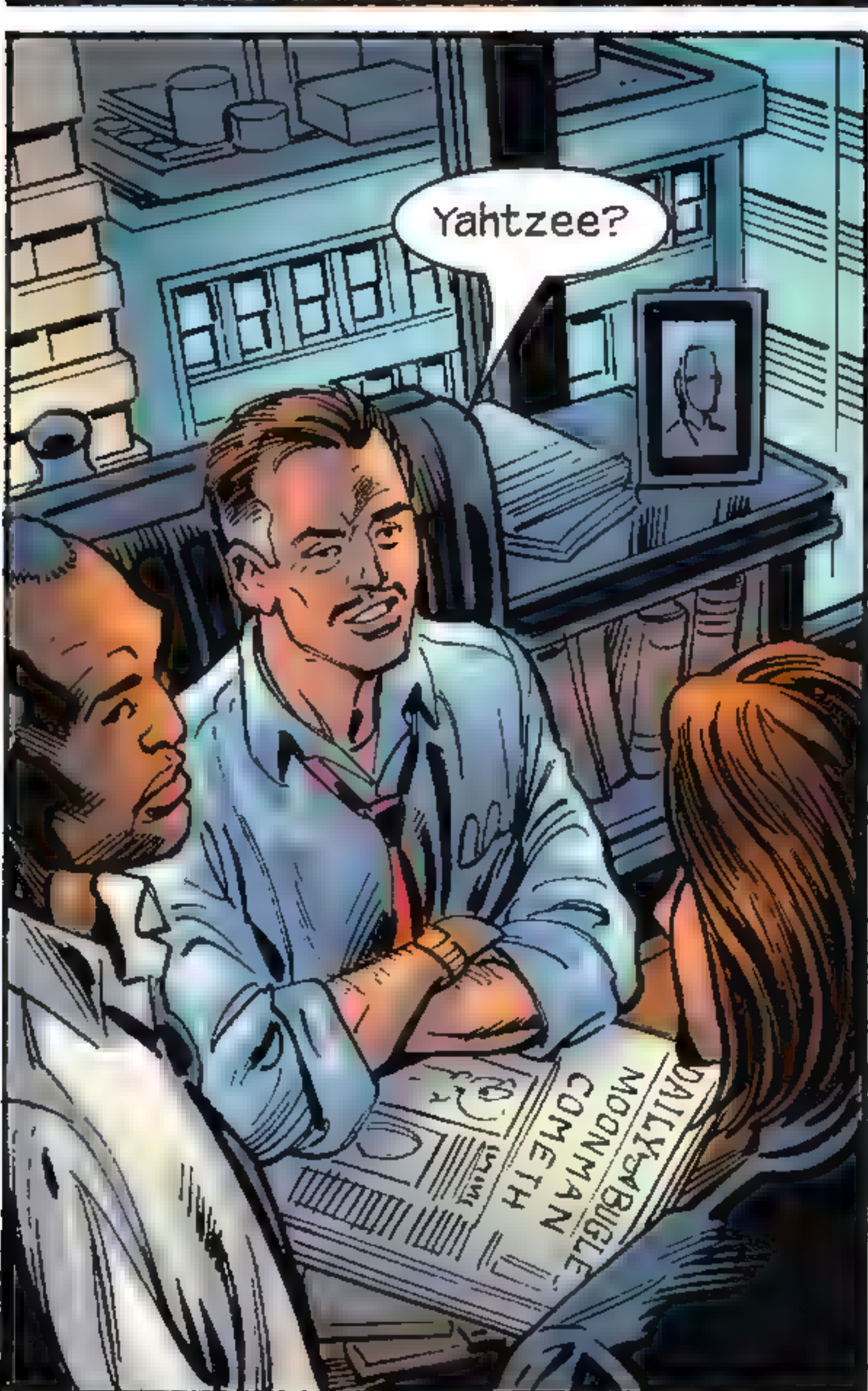
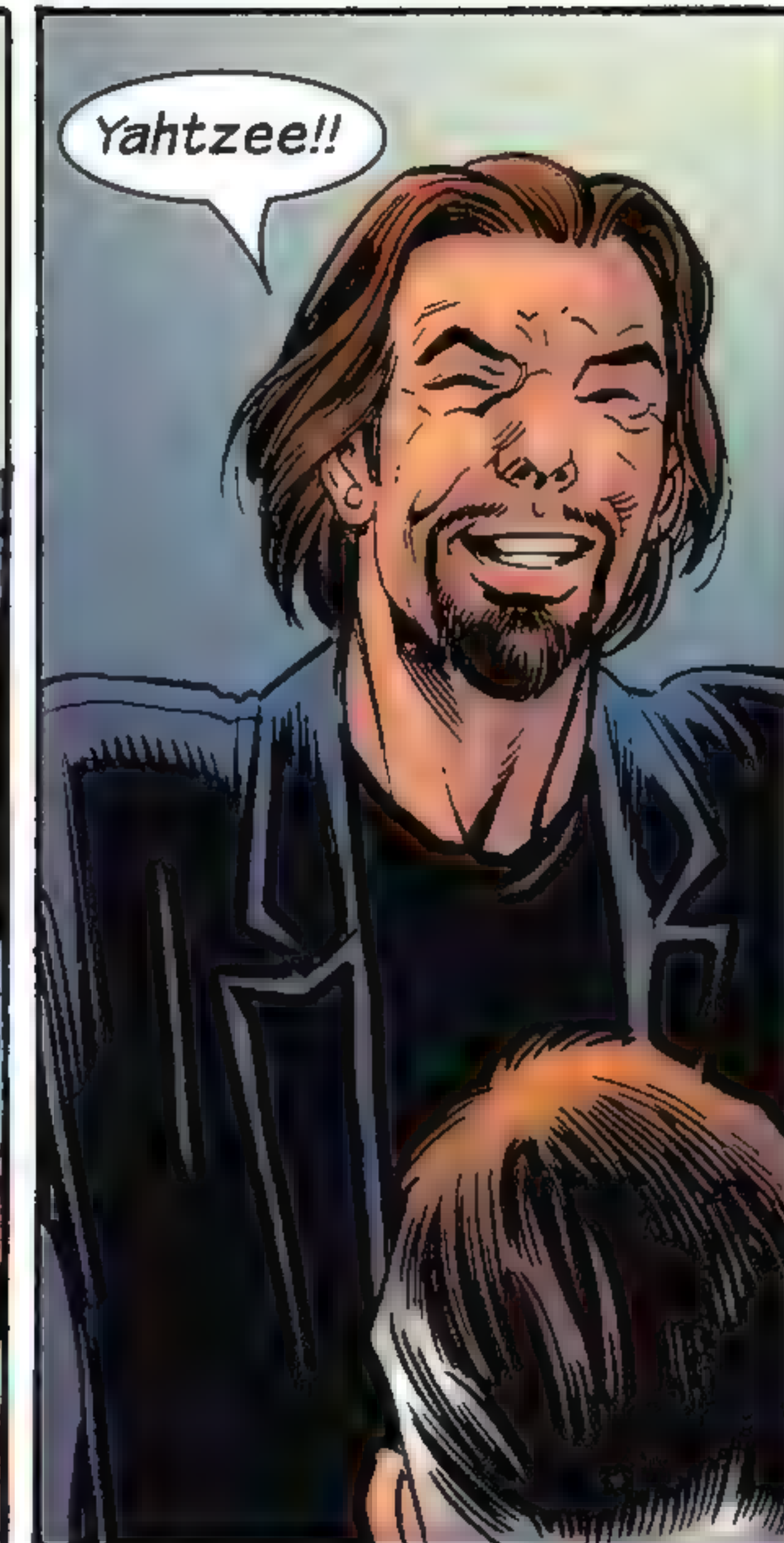
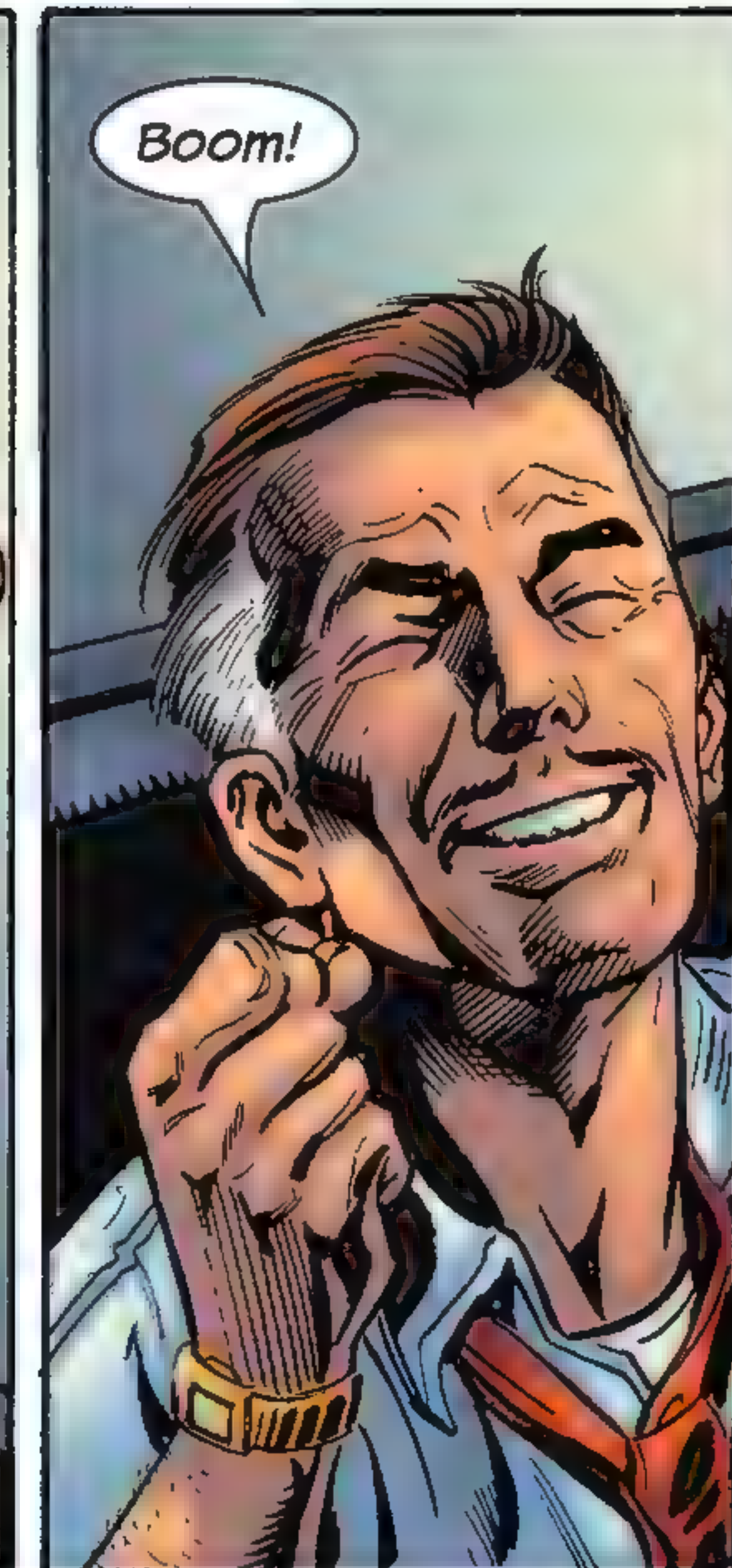
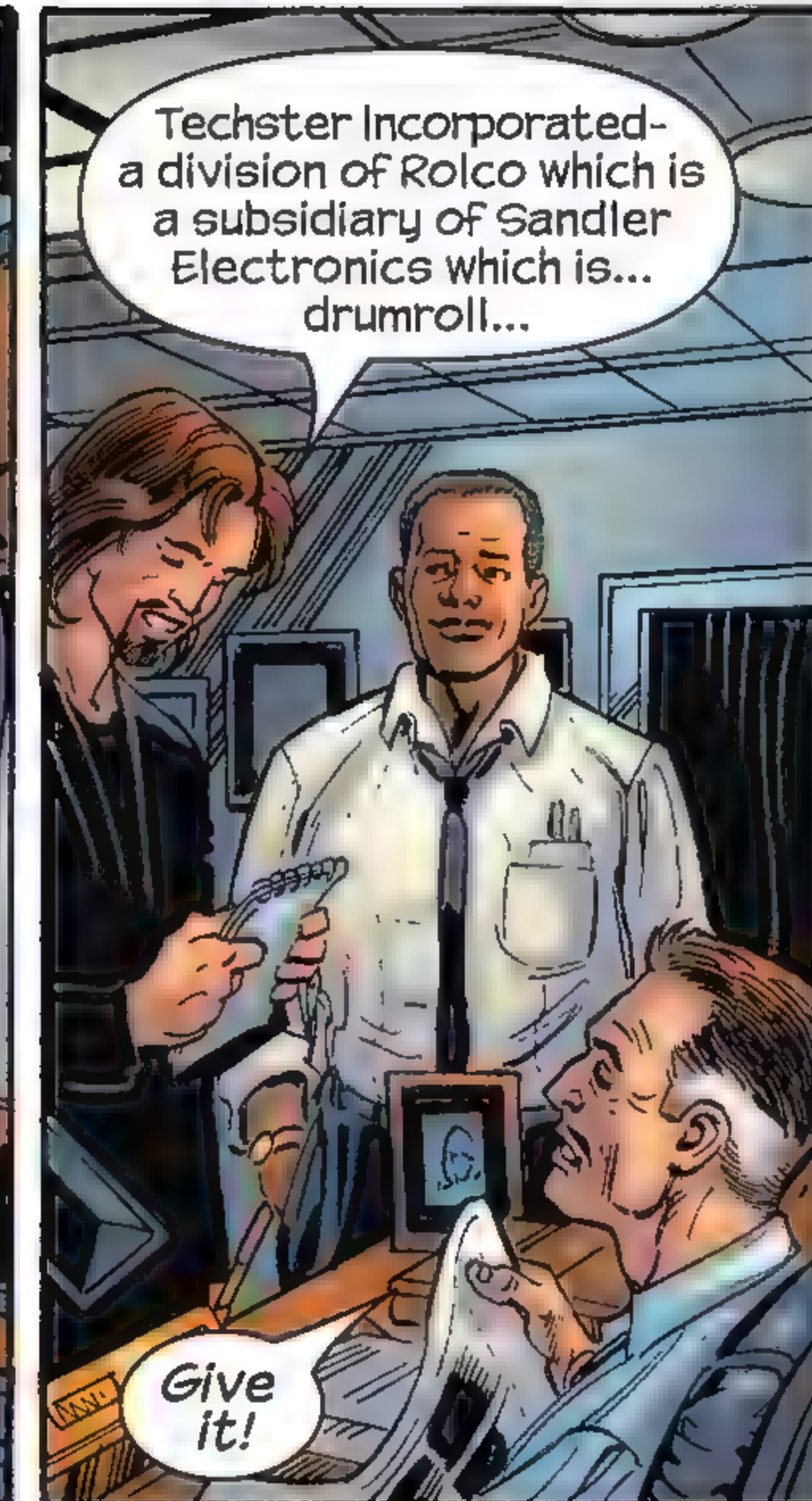
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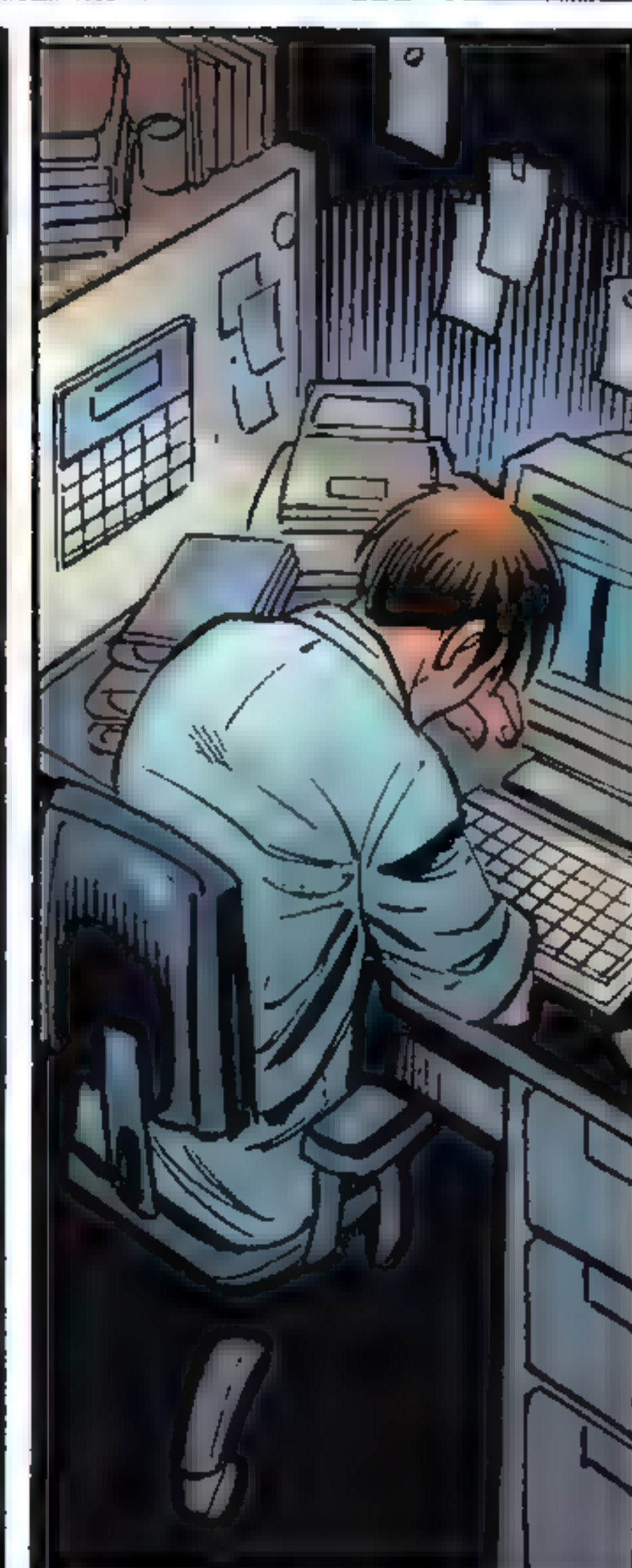
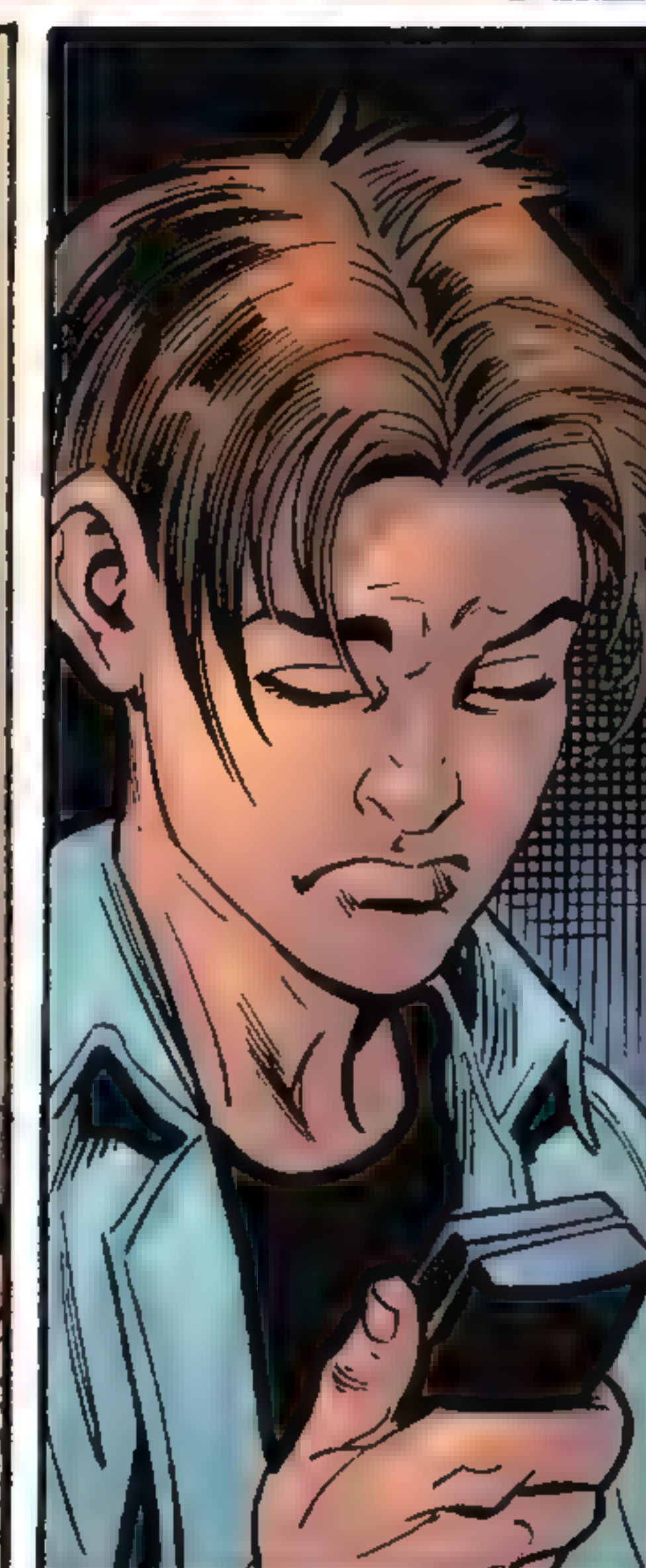
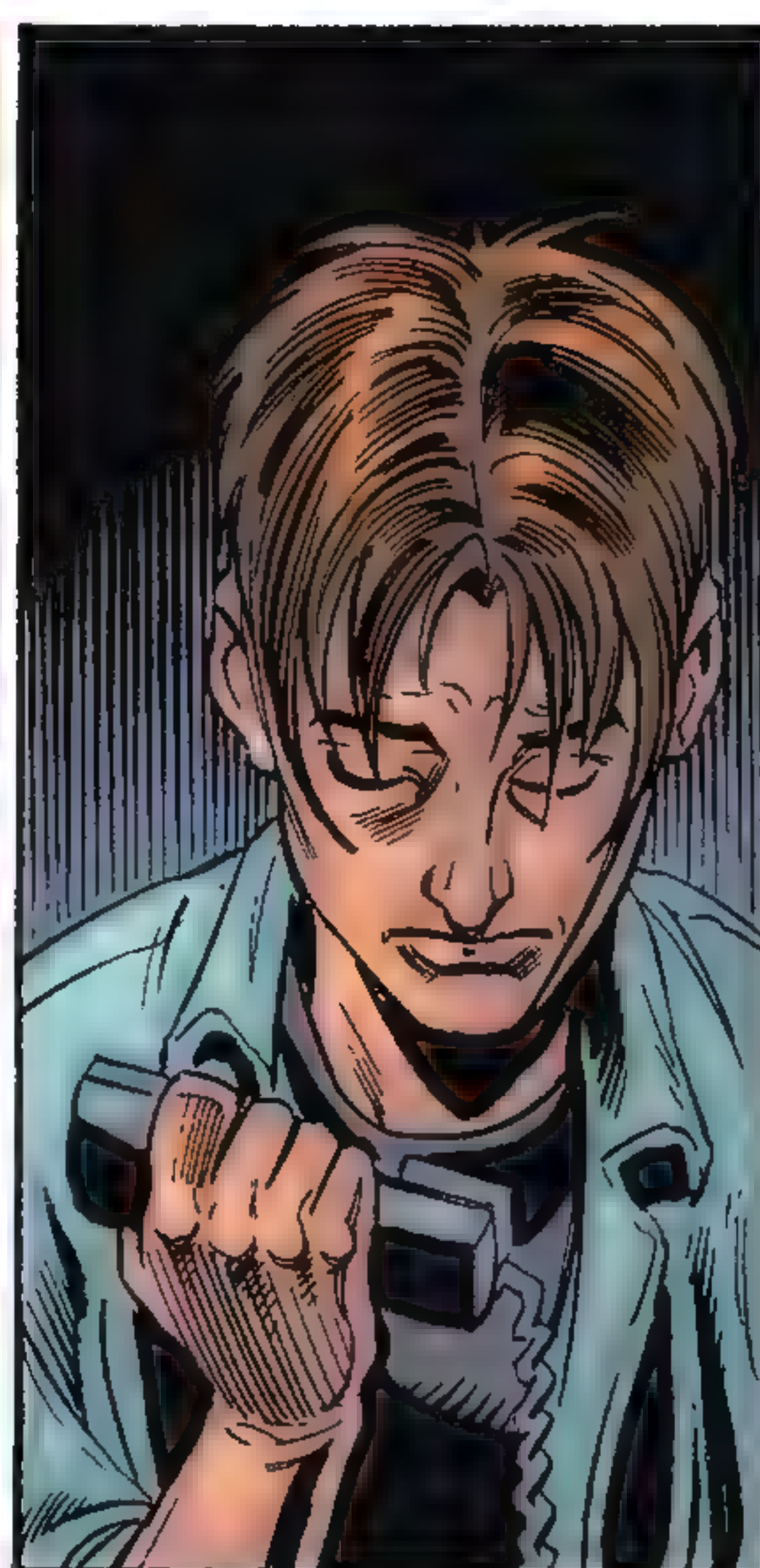
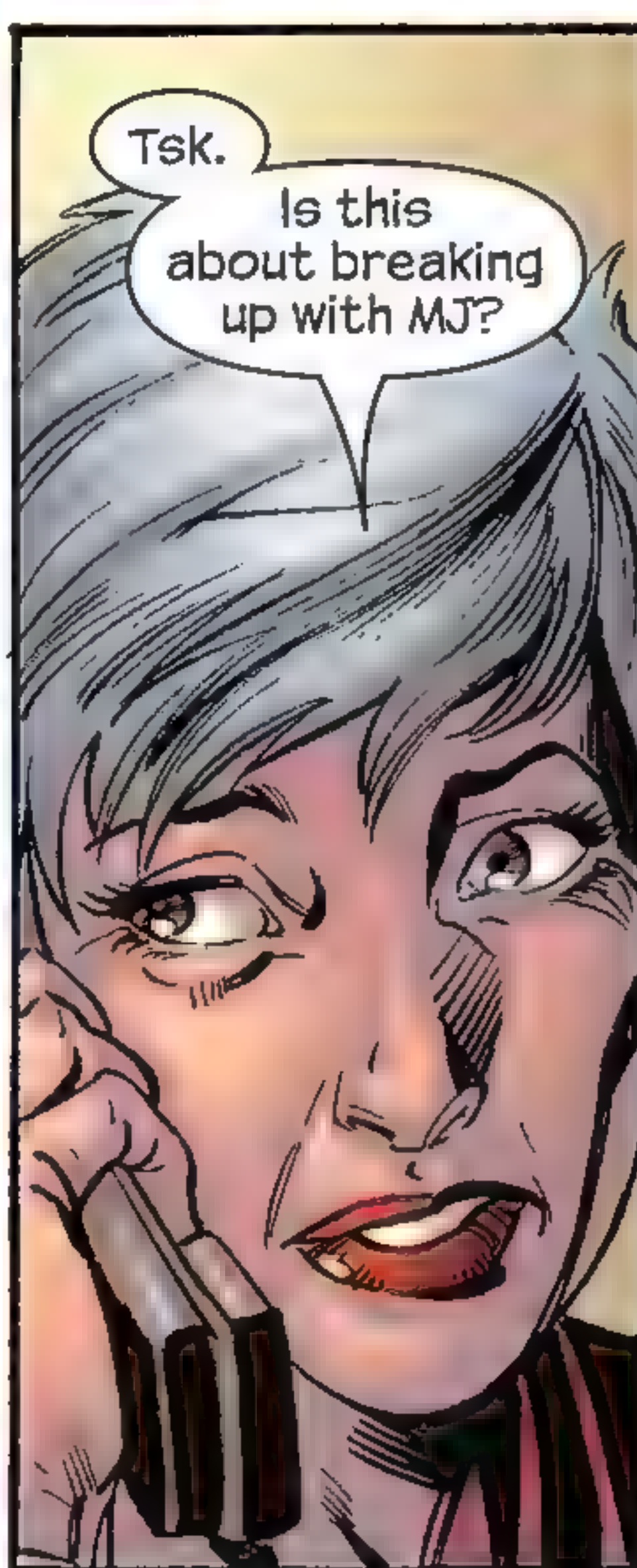
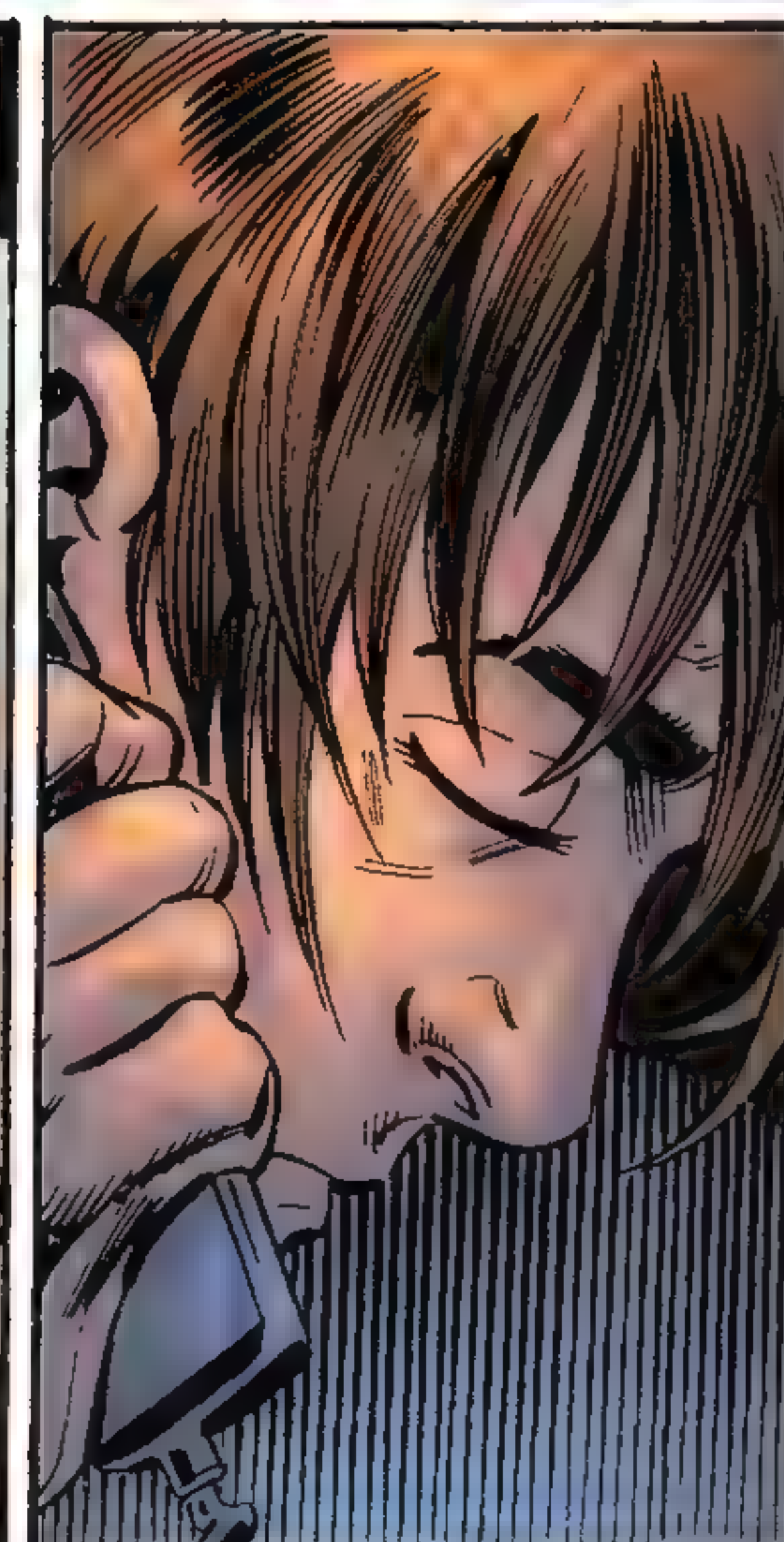
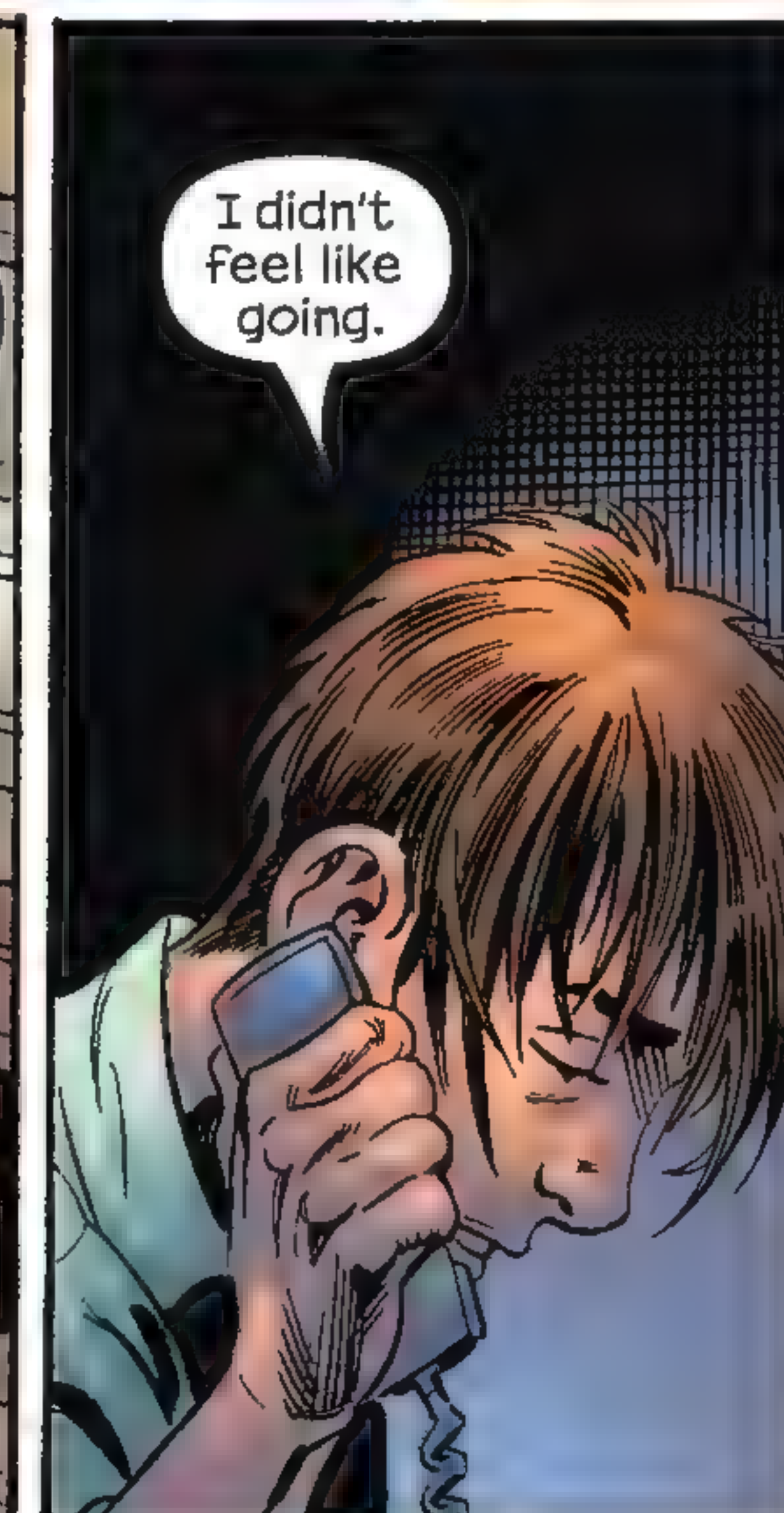
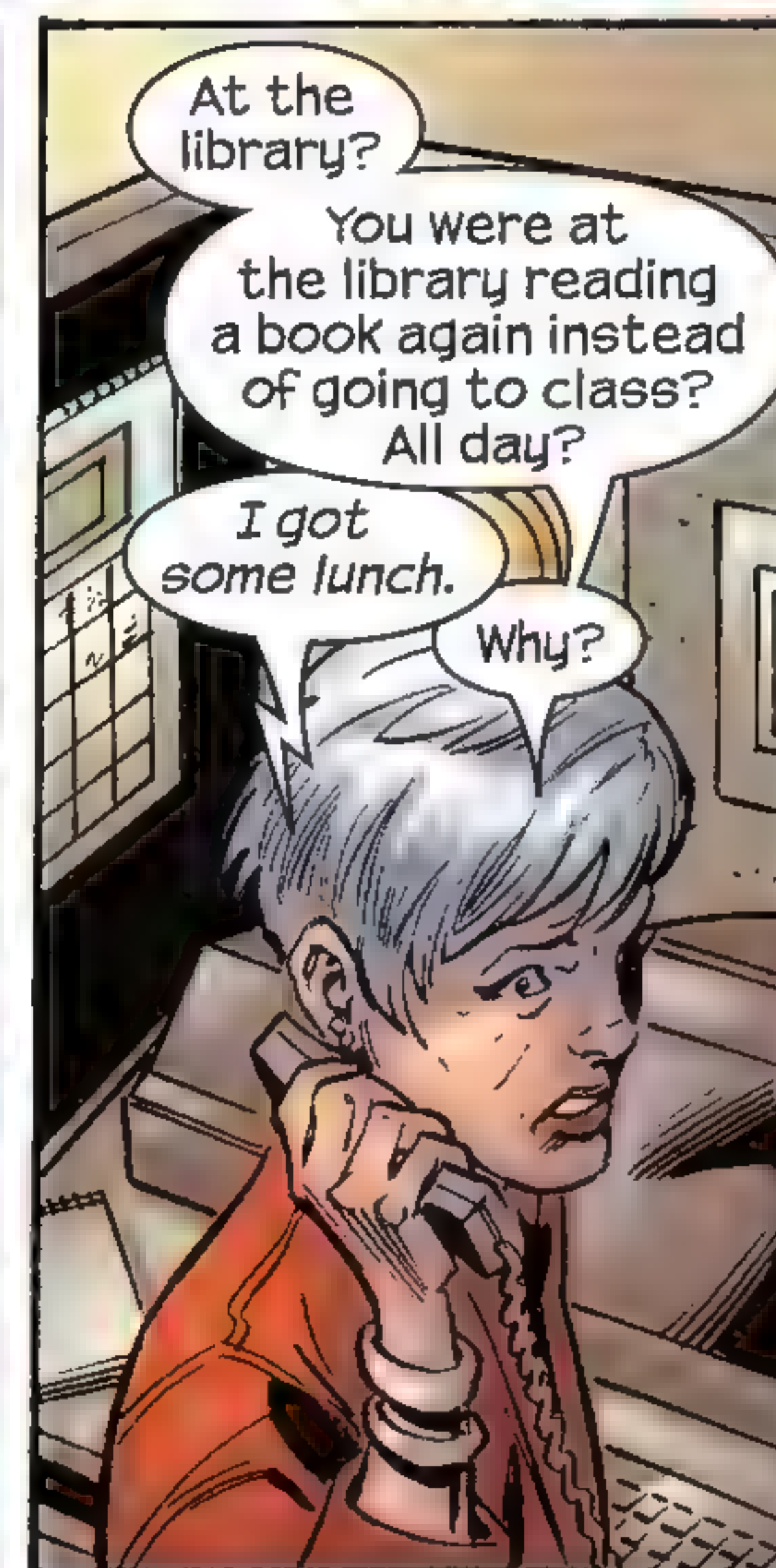
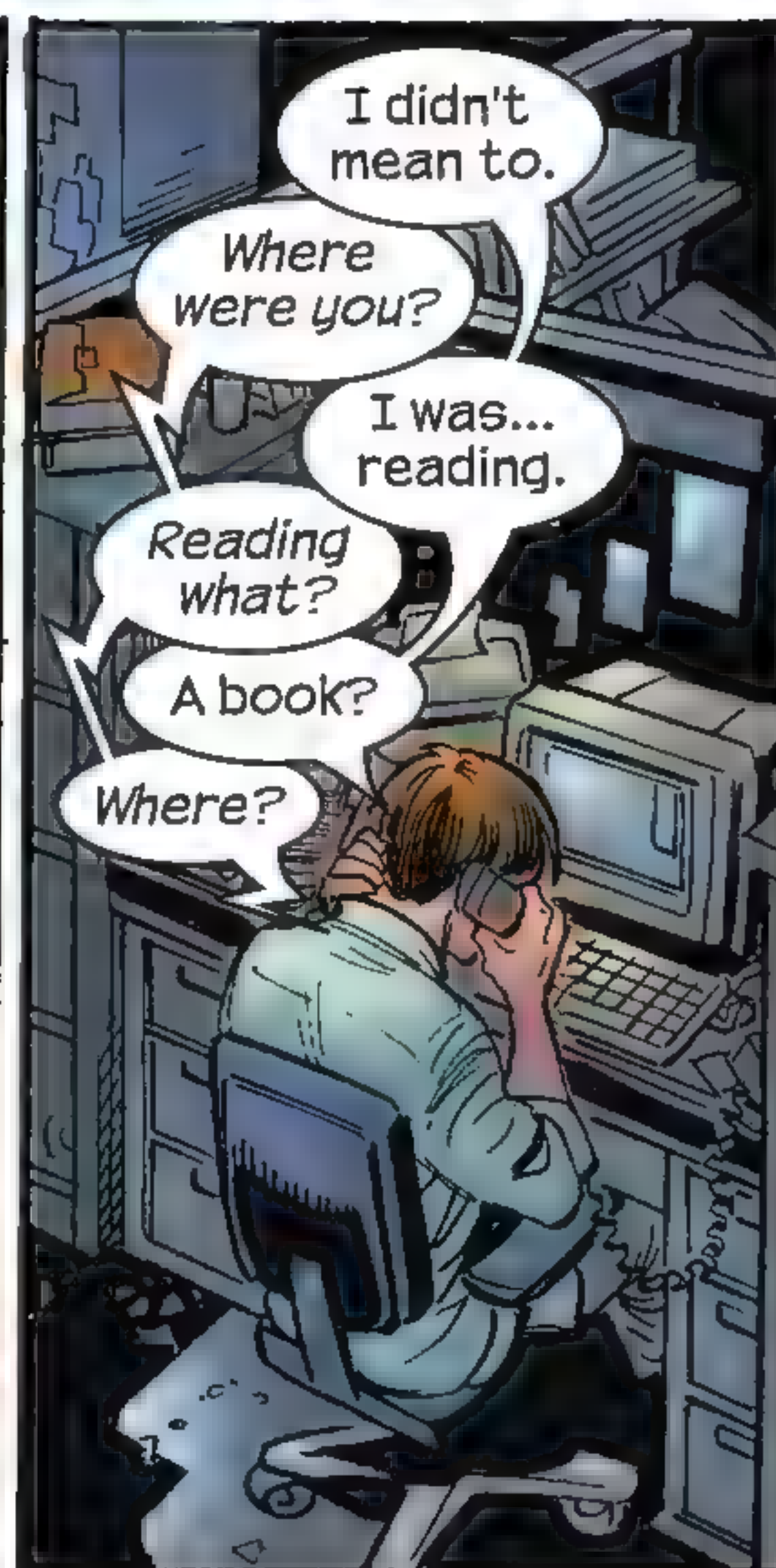
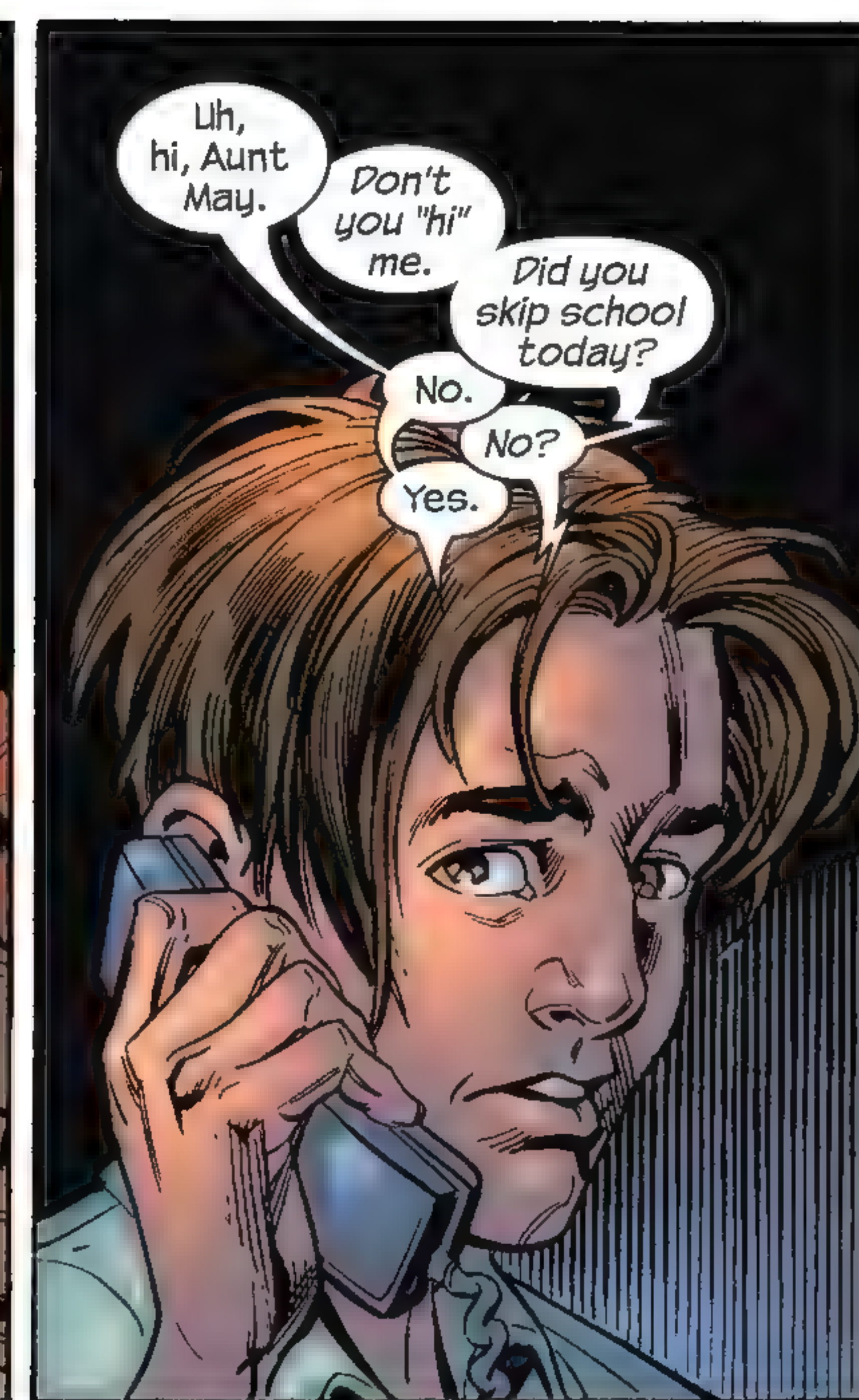
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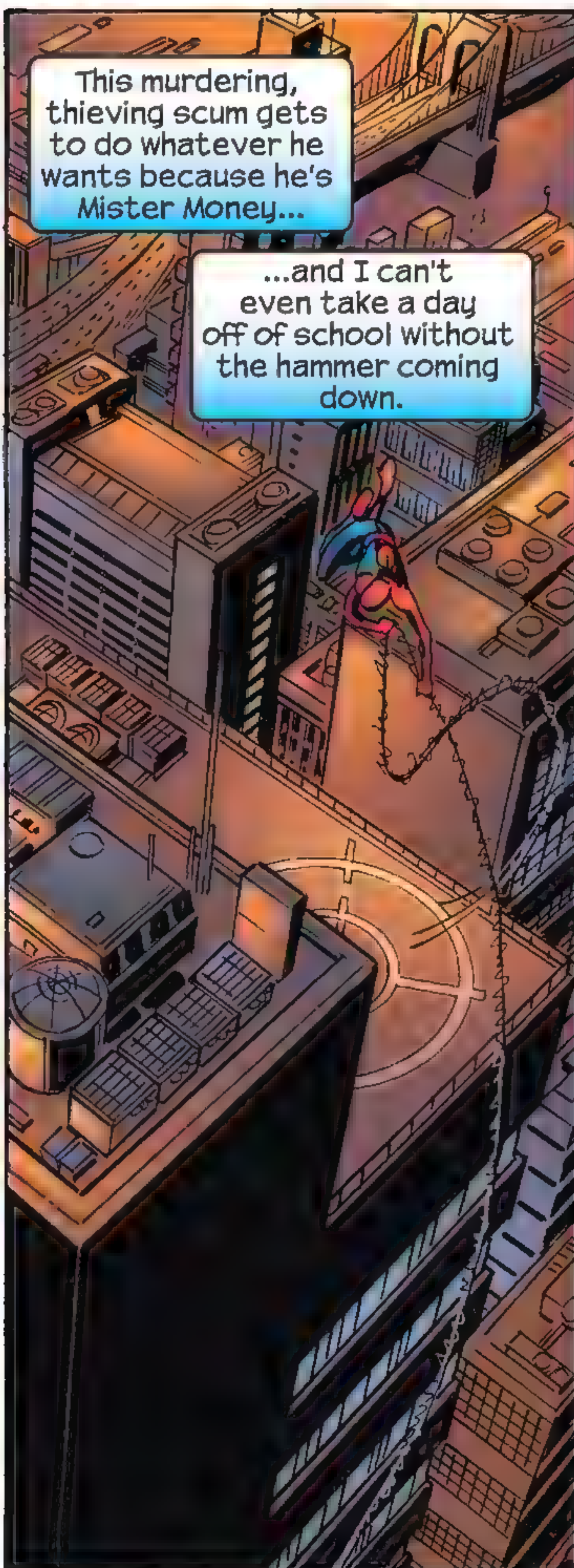
The Kingpin.

Ugh!! If this herb would just topple in my lifetime...

Is that asking too much?

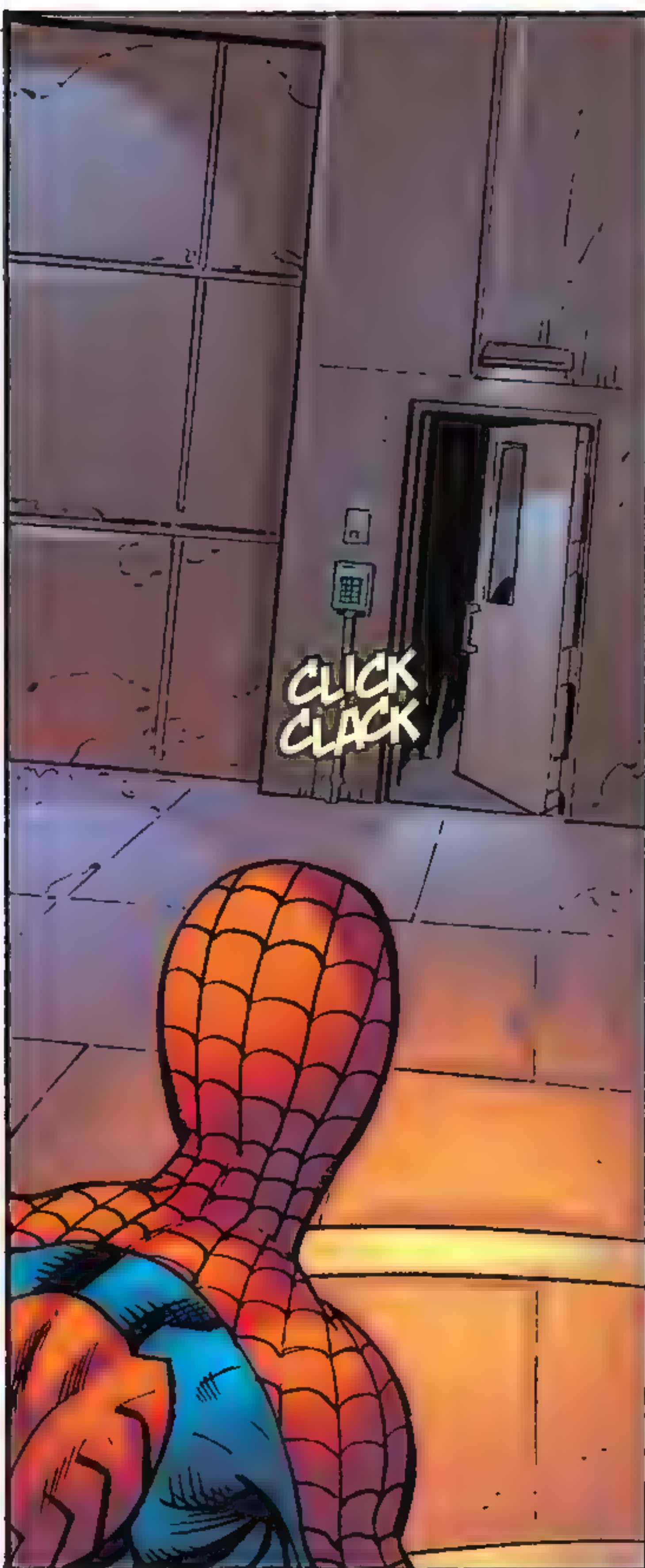
I don't ask for much in this world.

Just go to *jail* already!!



This murdering, thieving scum gets to do whatever he wants because he's Mister Money...

...and I can't even take a day off of school without the hammer coming down.



CLICK
CLACK

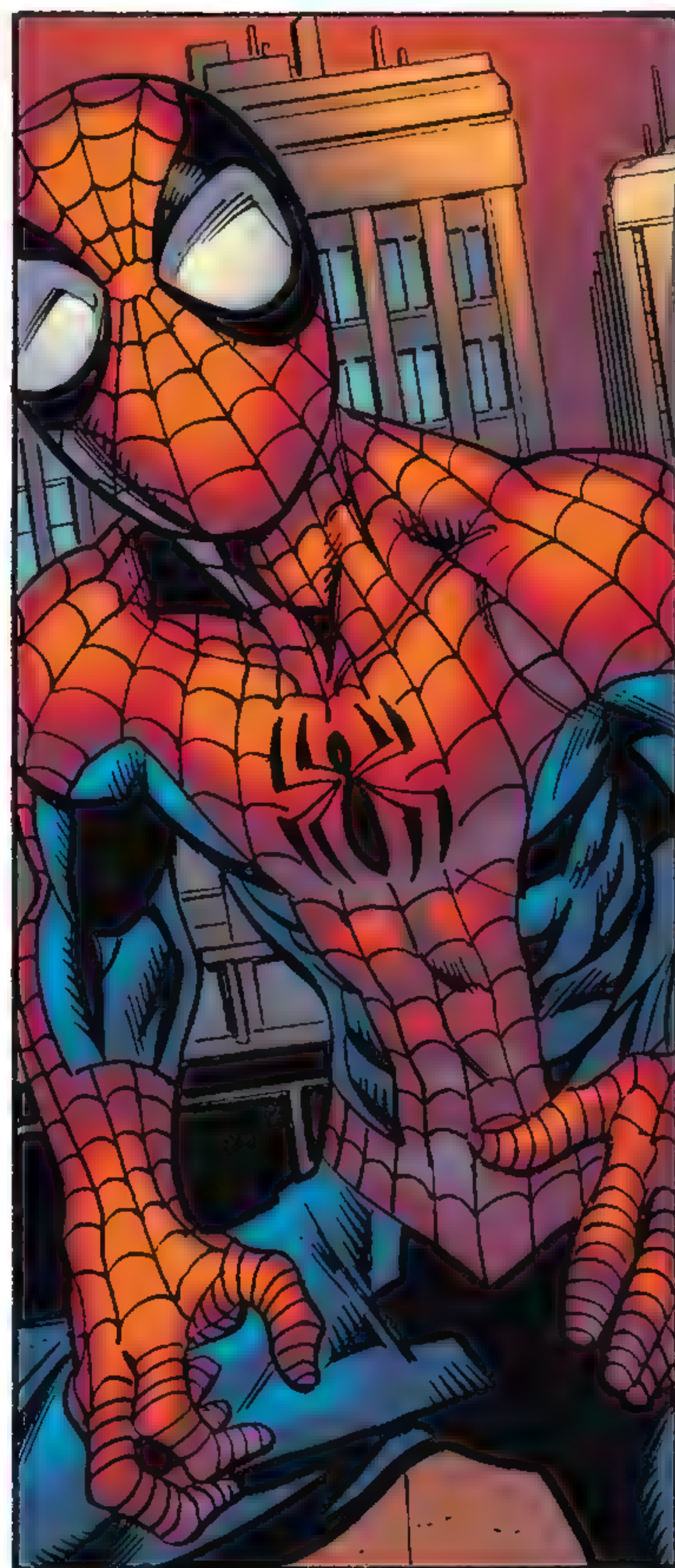


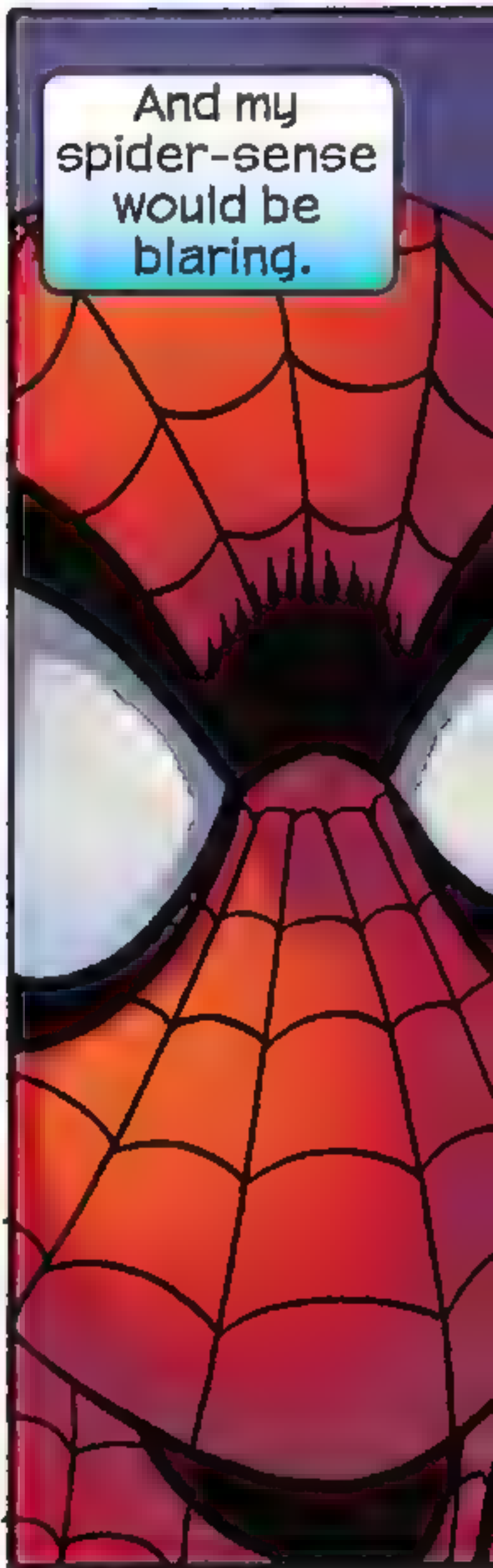
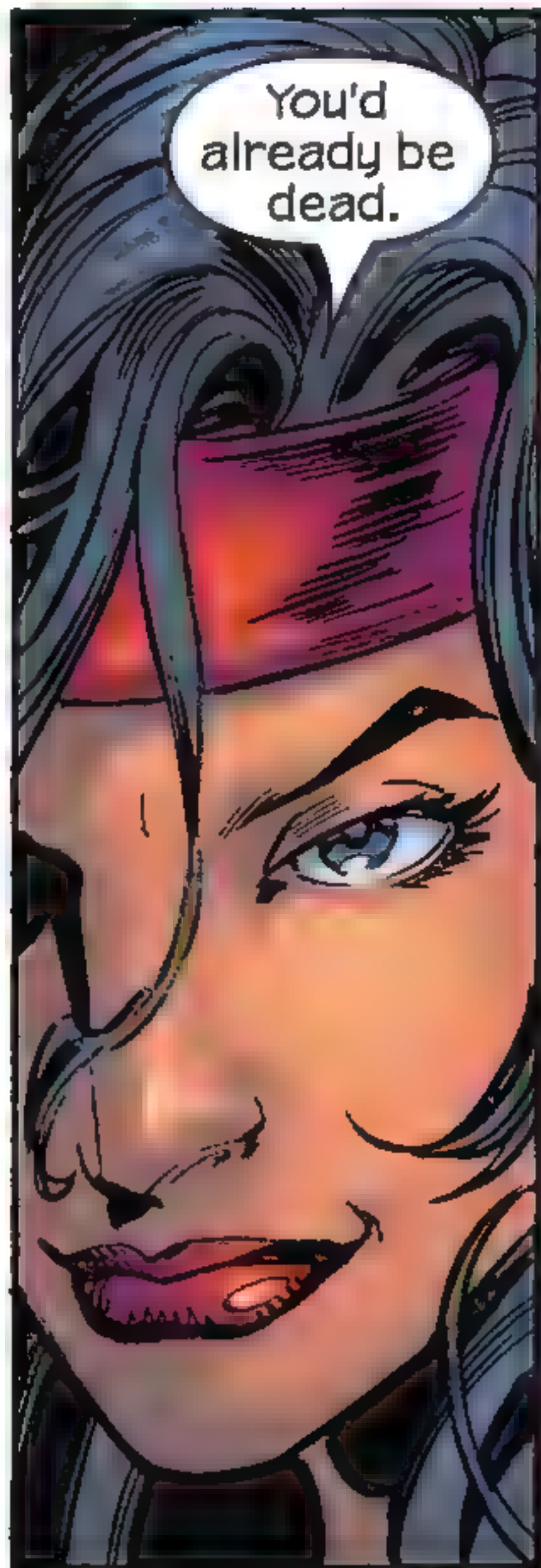
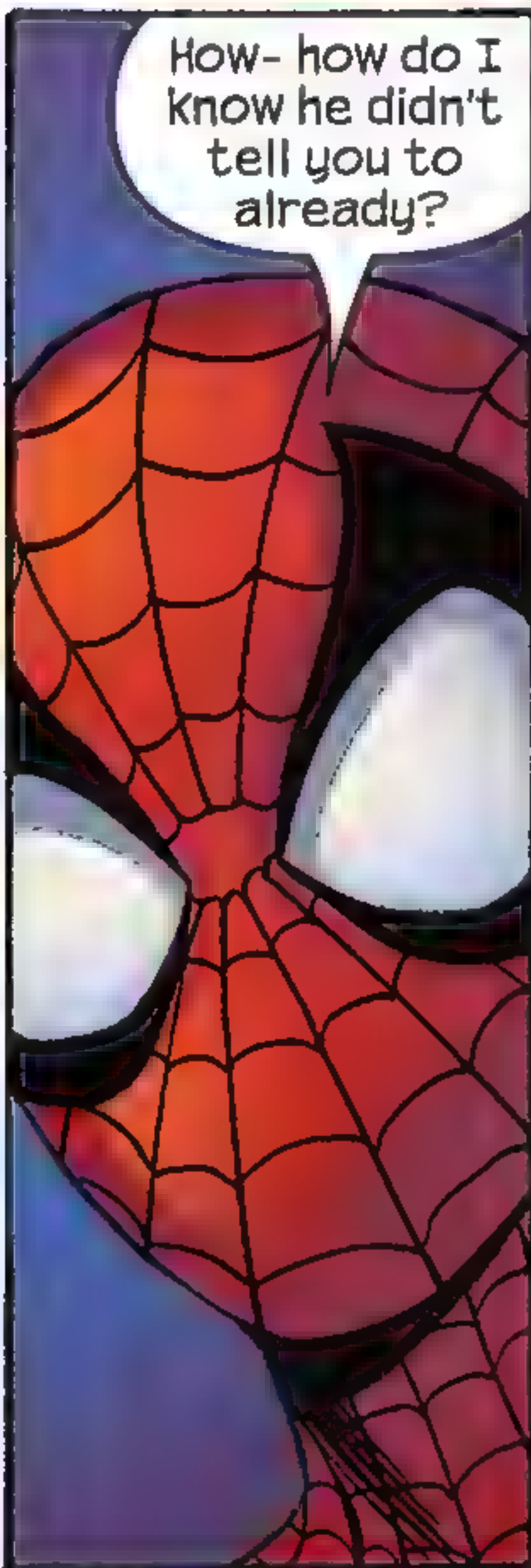
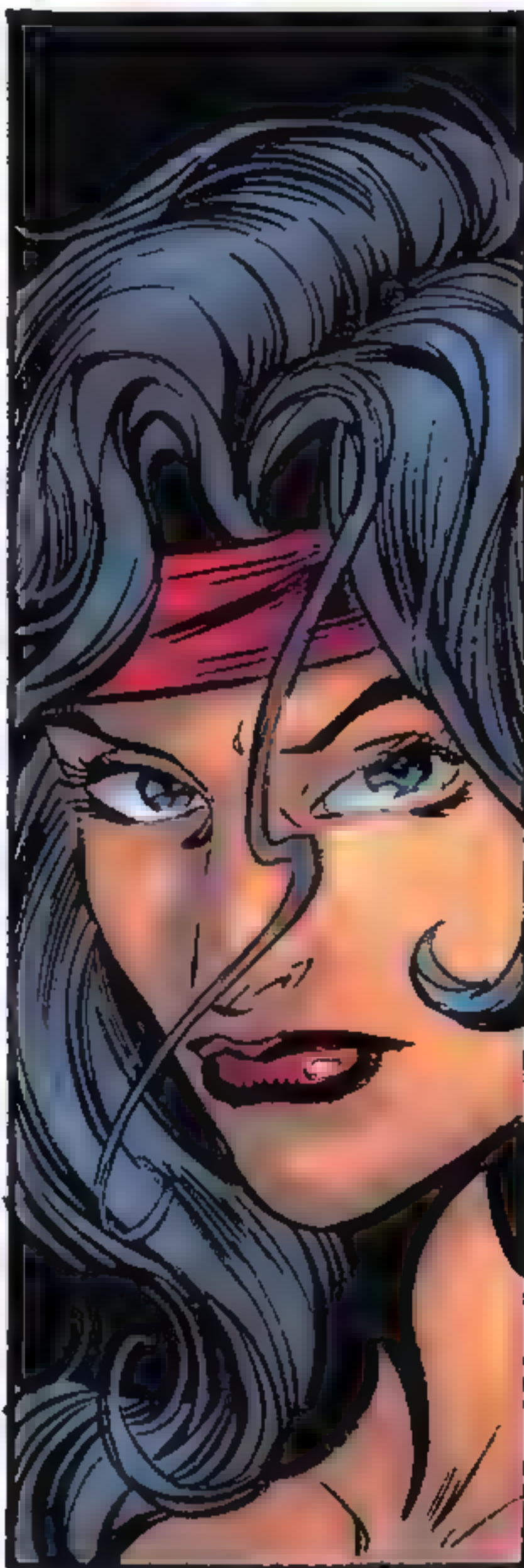
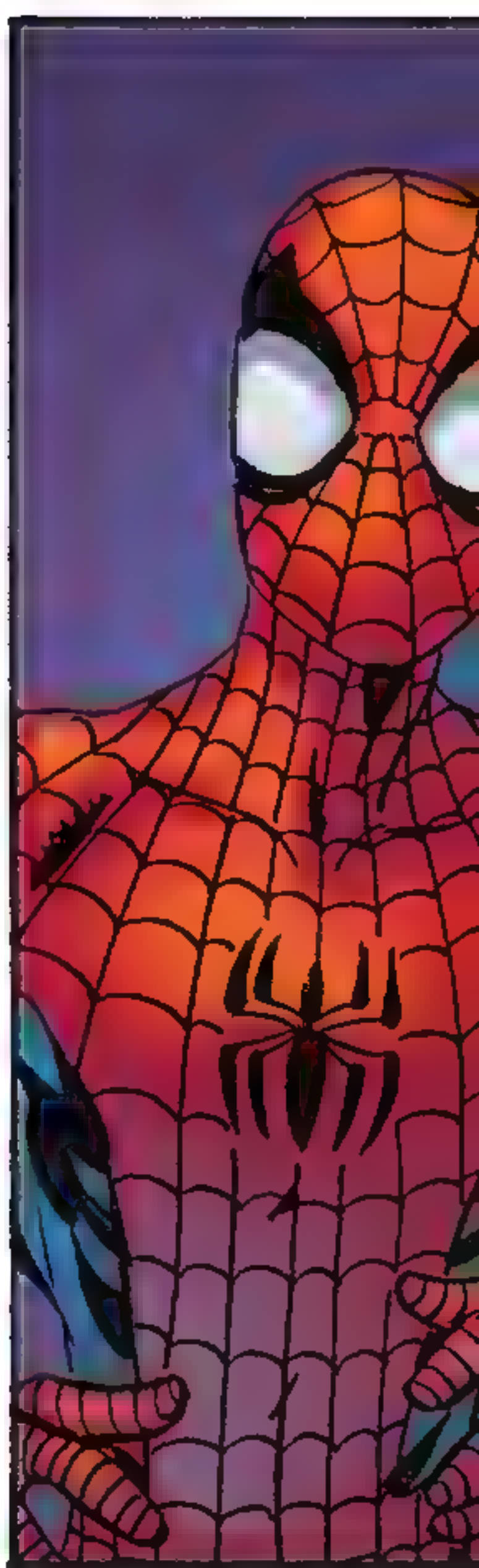
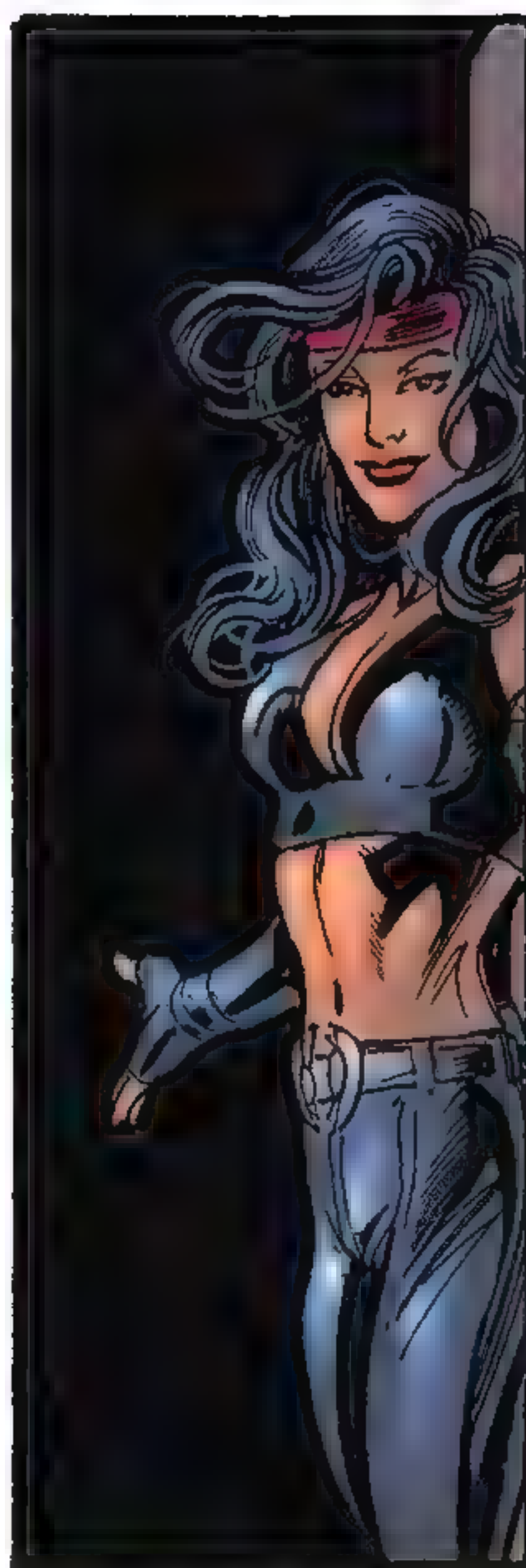
I've come *so* close.

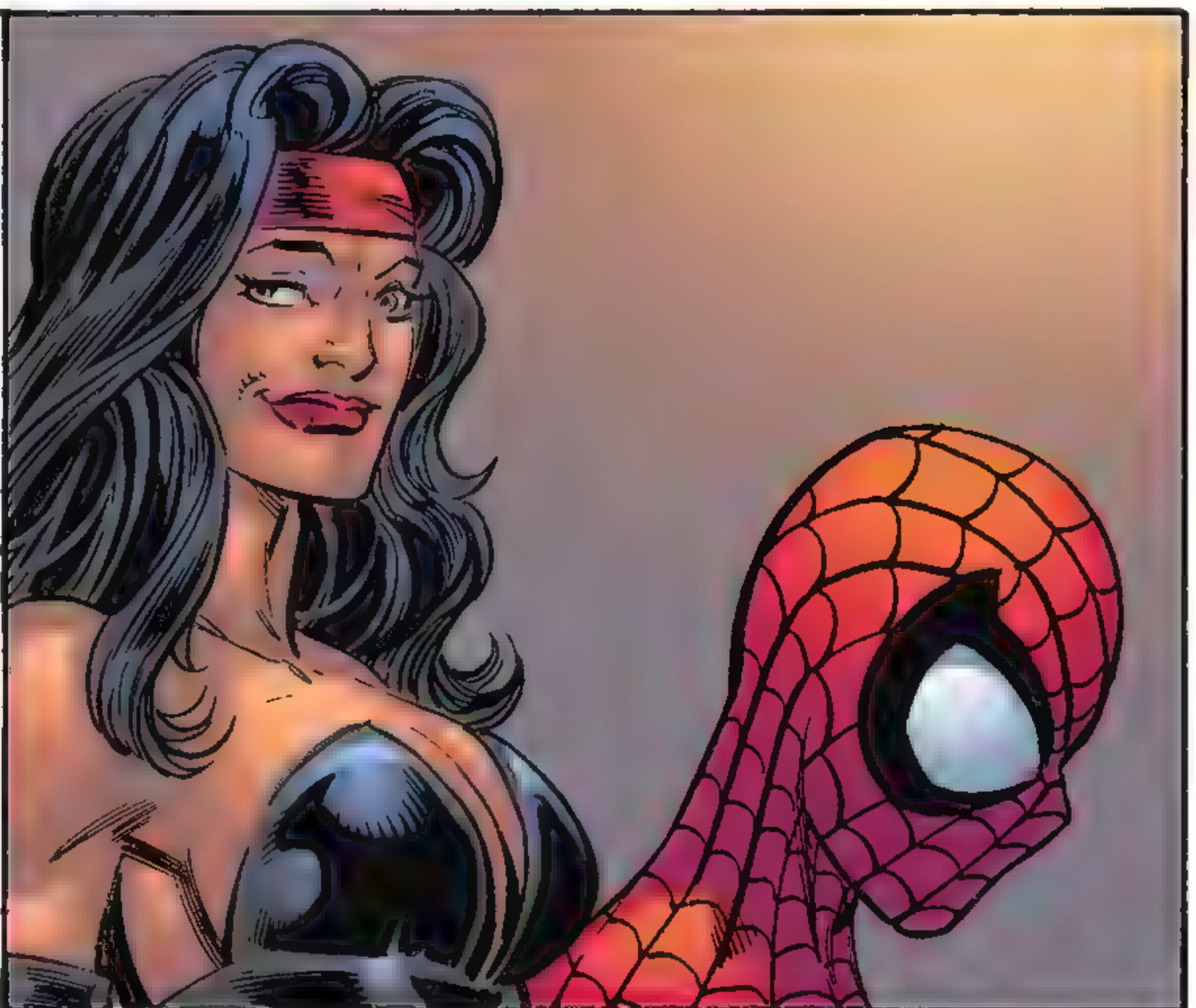
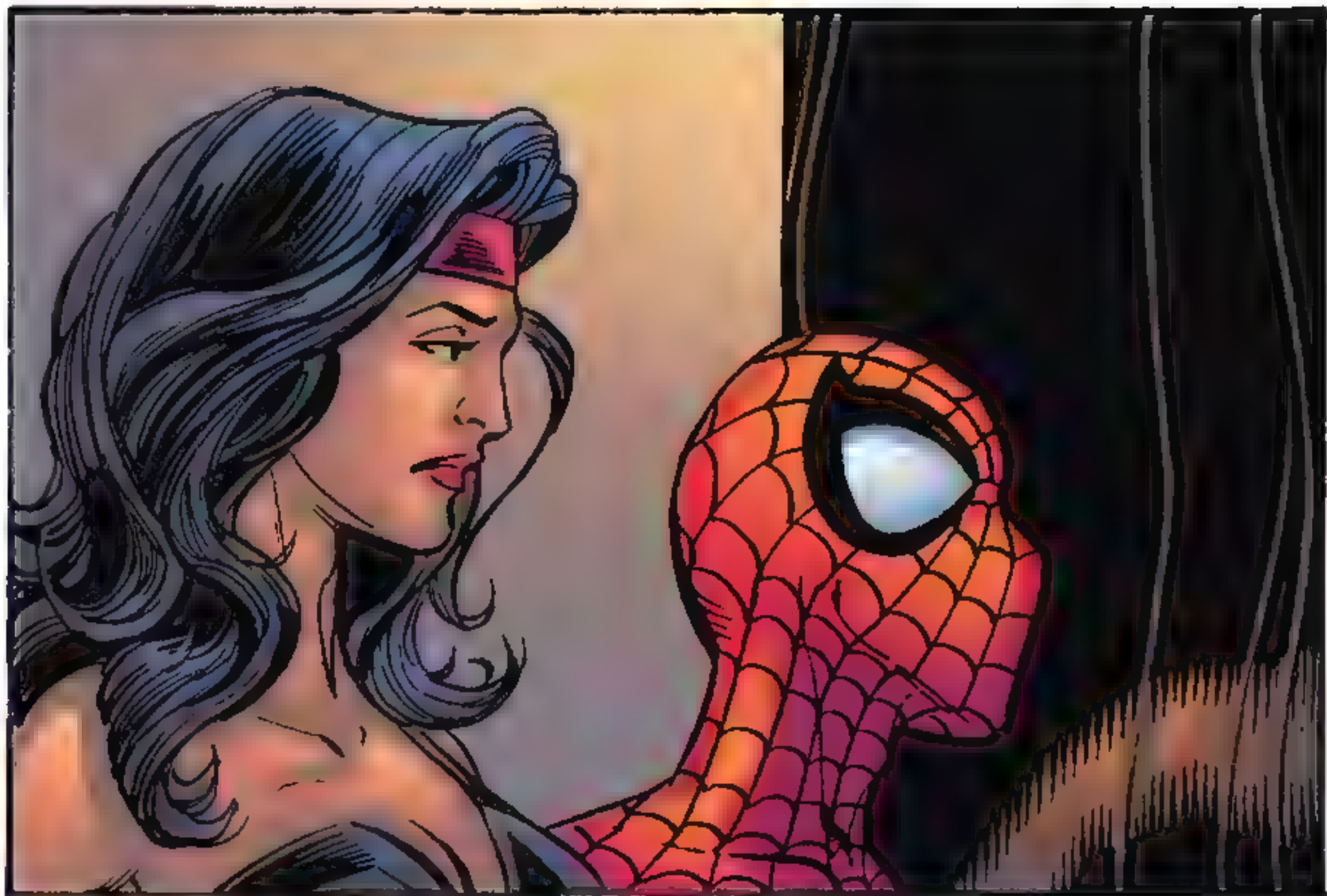
I would *love* to be part of his downfall. Love, love, *love* it.

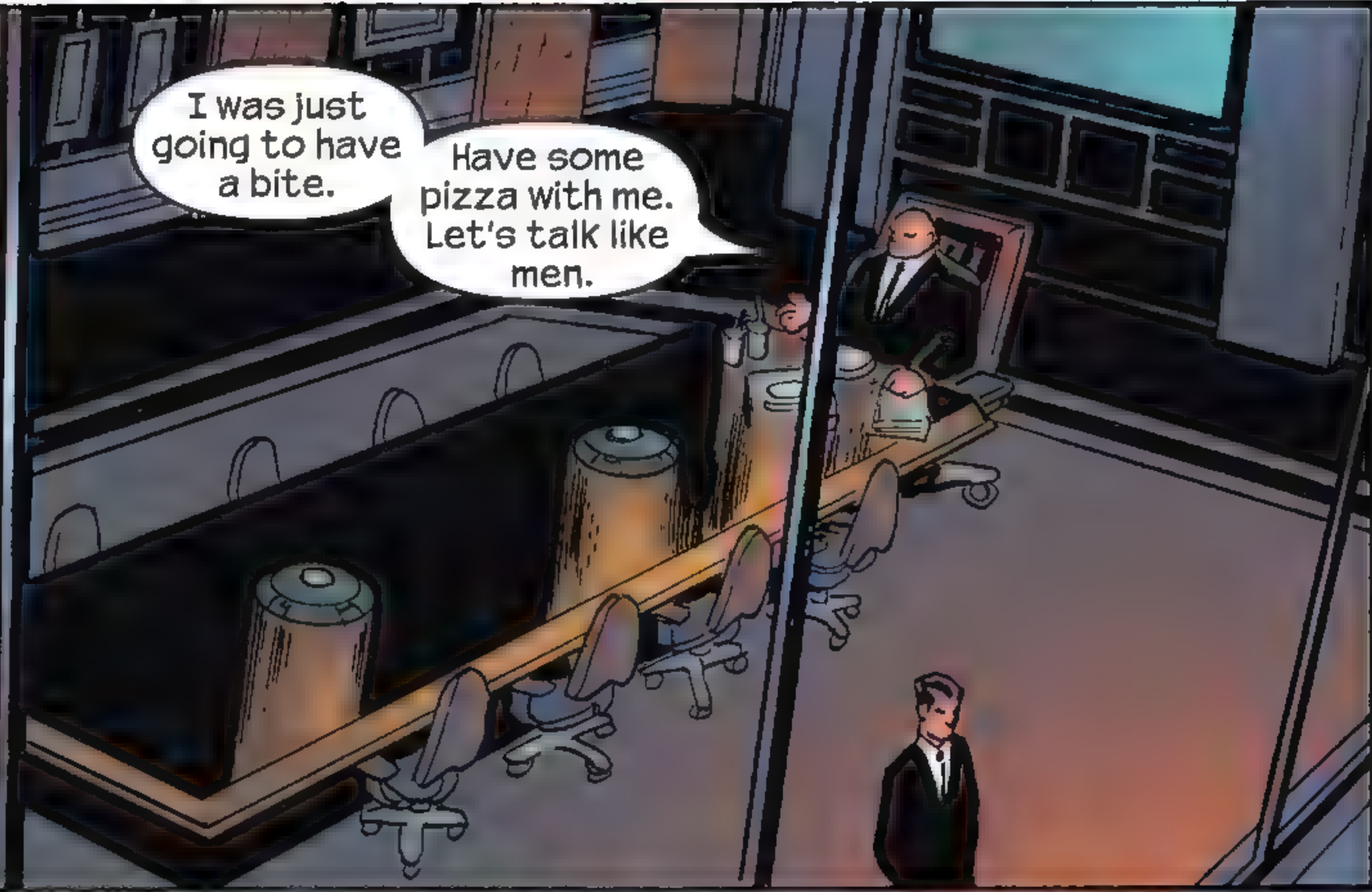
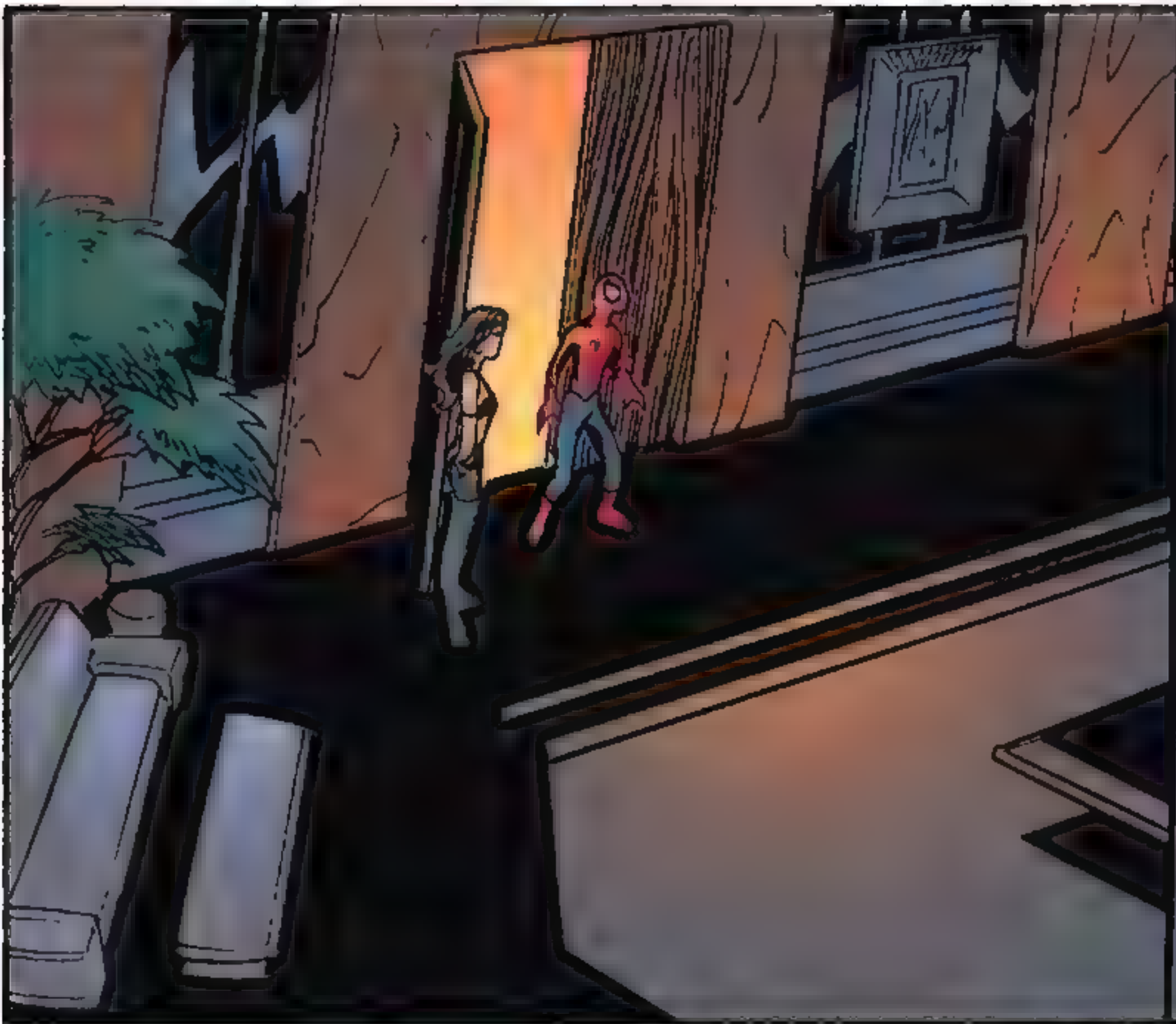
I had him dead to rights that one time, video-tape evidence and everything.

I would love to giftwrap some hard evidence and hand it to whoever I have to hand it to and watch this fat f--









I was just going to have a bite.

Have some pizza with me. Let's talk like men.



How did you know I was coming? I didn't even know I was coming.

Oh, I didn't.

I have cameras on the roof. Got them just because of you.

I told my men to tell me if you ever stopped by again.

I've been looking forward to the opportunity to talk to you in a less hostile environment.



Sit. Eat.

Ha!

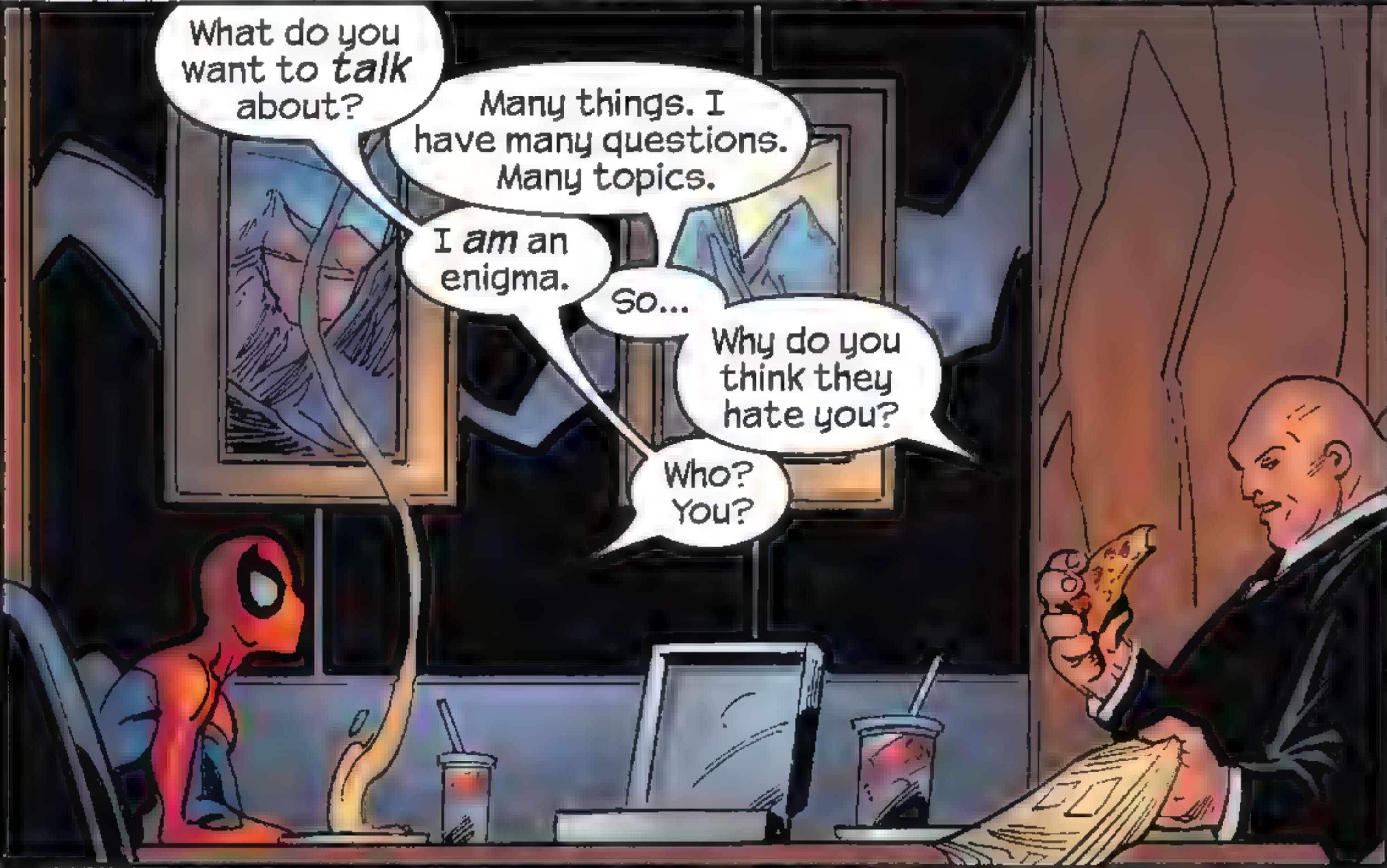


I own the parlor.

I bought it after I tasted a slice actually.

It's the best in New York.

I know a lot of people claim that, but...



What do you want to talk about?

Many things. I have many questions. Many topics.

I am an enigma.

So...

Why do you think they hate you?

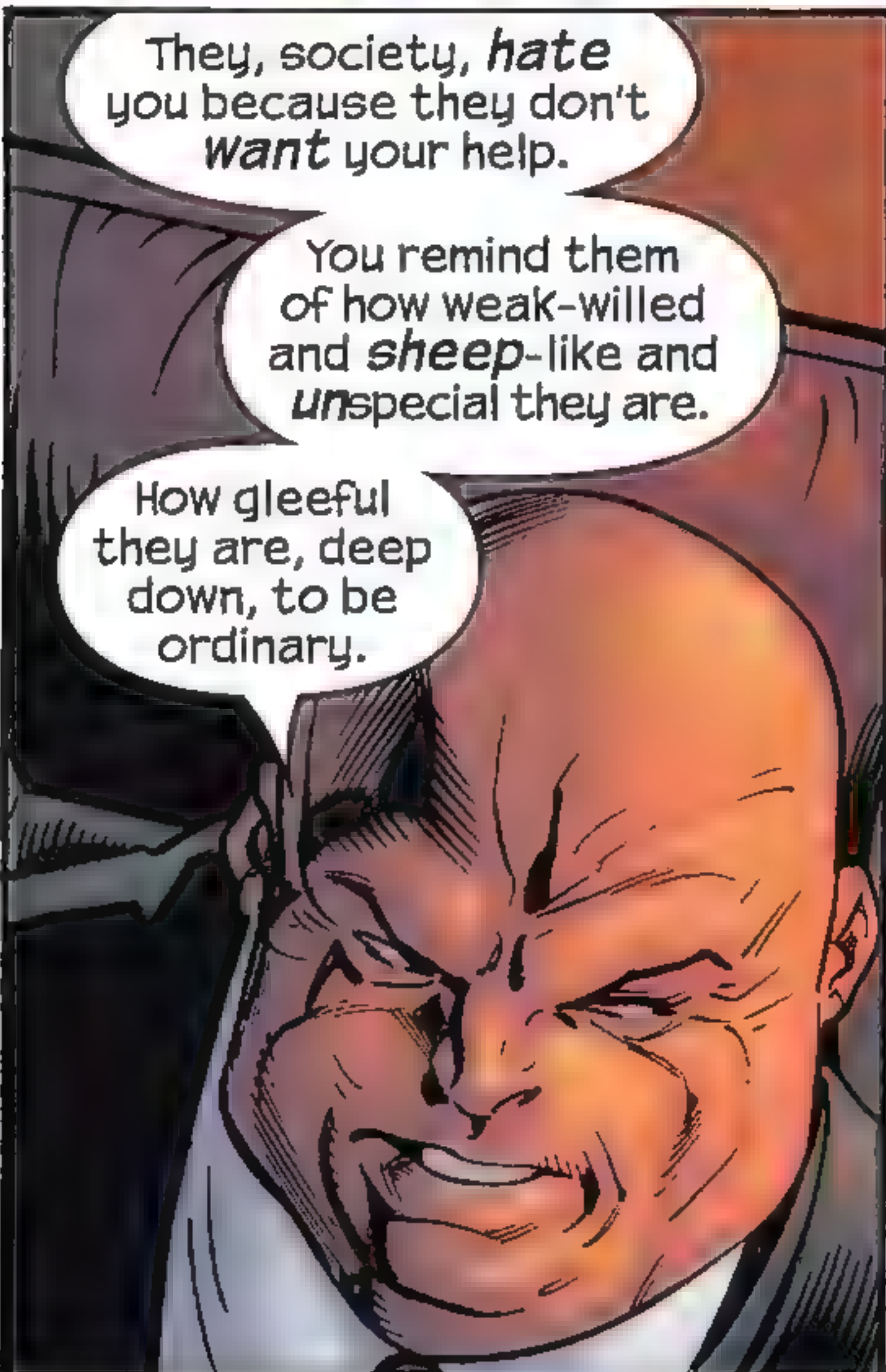
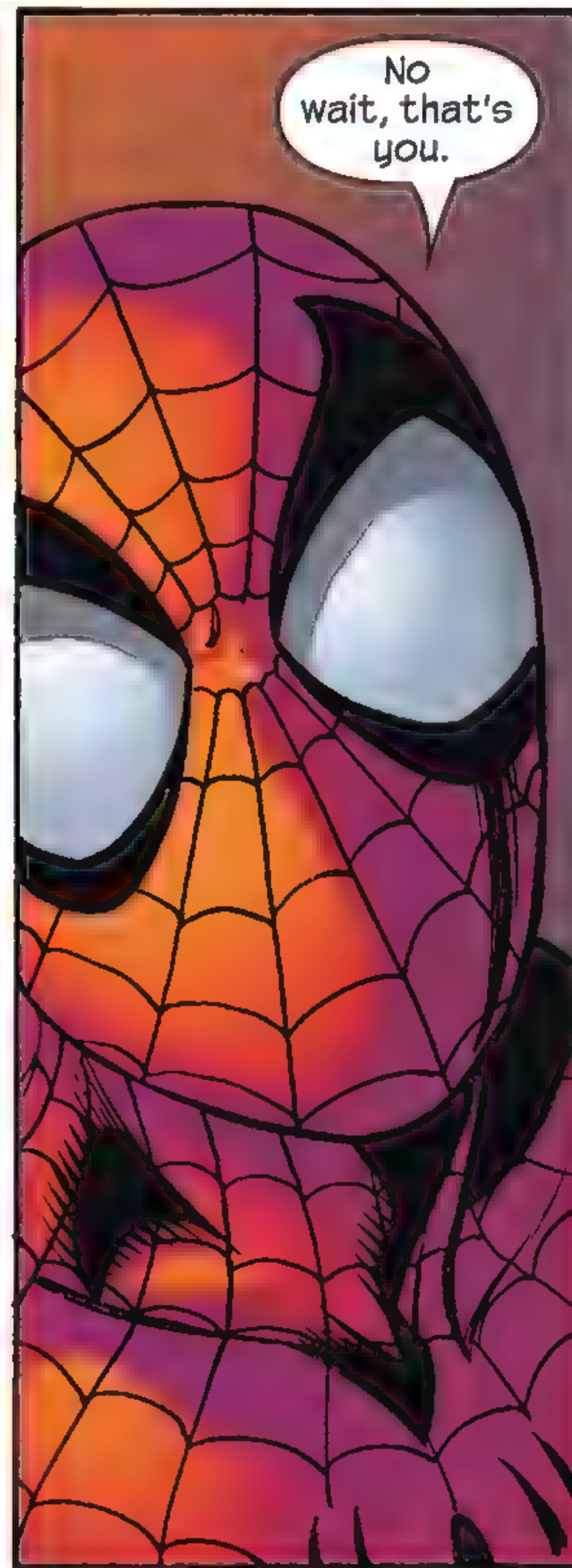
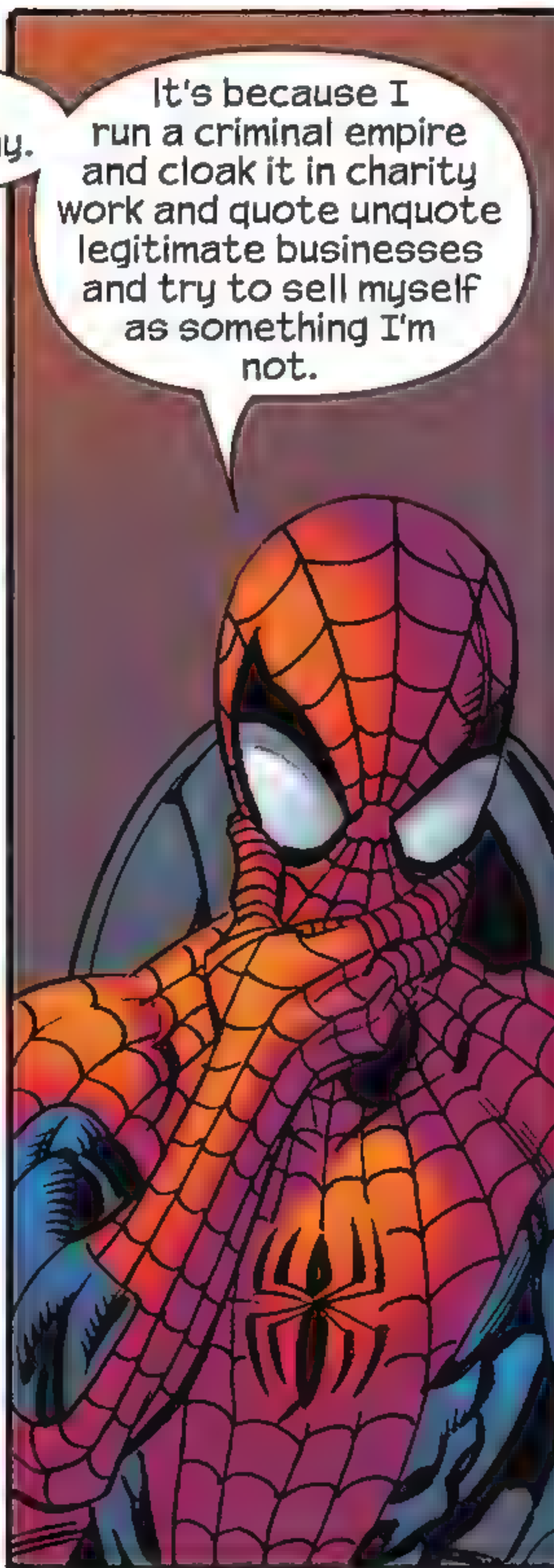
Who? You?

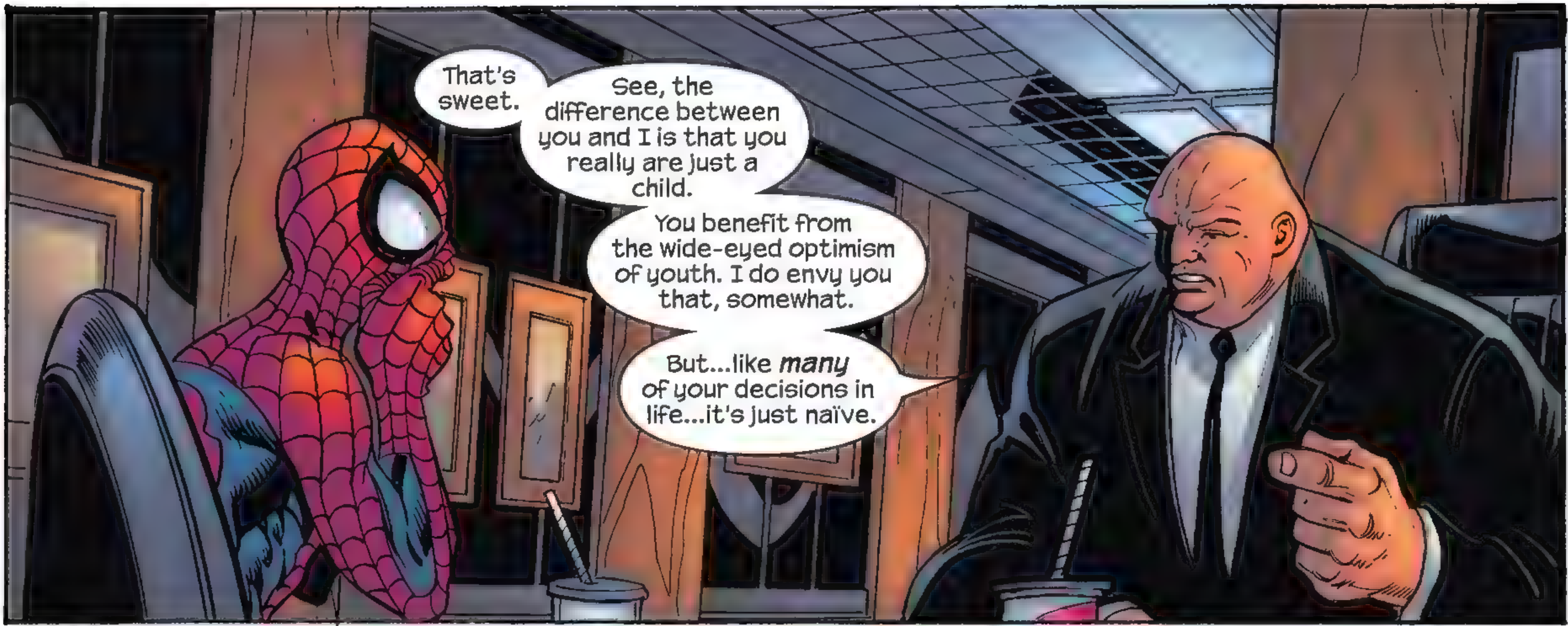


DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN MENACE

FISK BAILS OUT LIBRARY





That's sweet.

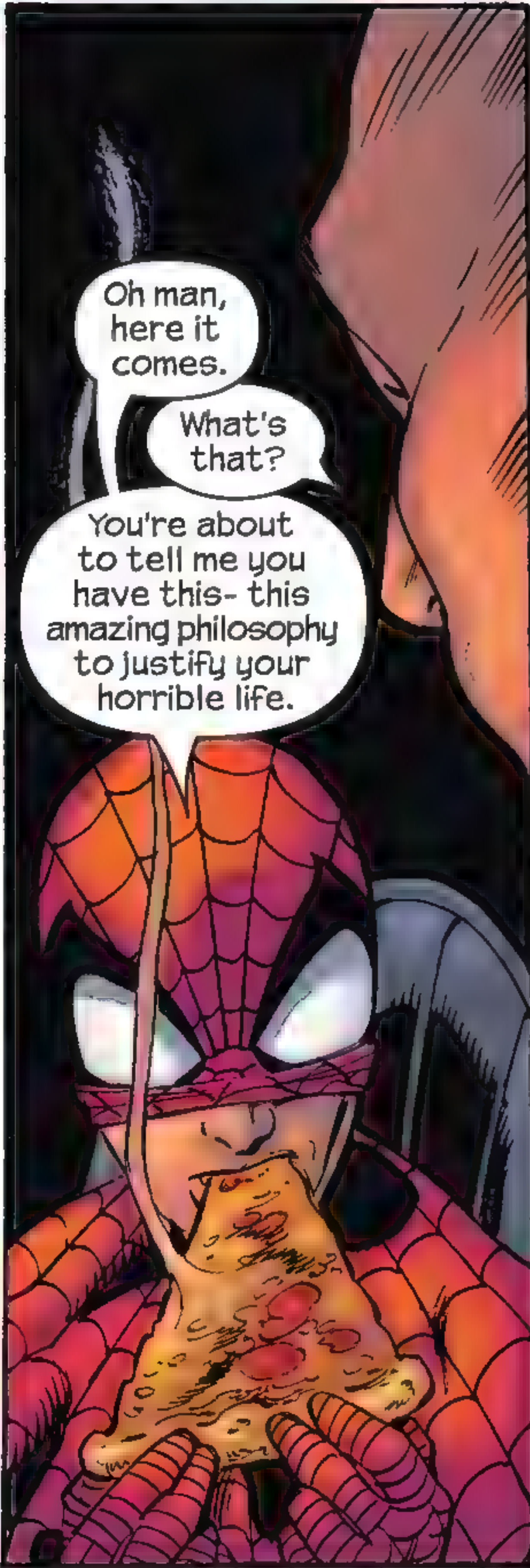
See, the difference between you and I is that you really are just a child.

You benefit from the wide-eyed optimism of youth. I do envy you that, somewhat.

But...like *many* of your decisions in life...it's just naïve.

And I *don't* envy that harsh cold slap of *reality* that will come your way soon enough.

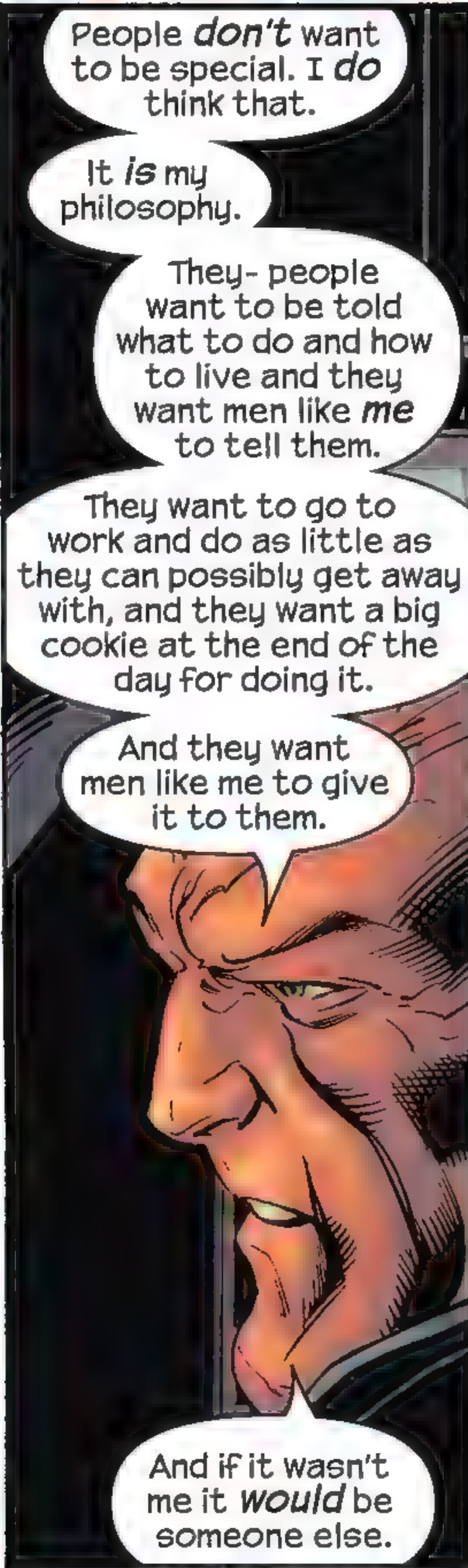
But I guess it's inevitable.



Oh man, here it comes.

What's that?

You're about to tell me you have this- this amazing philosophy to justify your horrible life.



People *don't* want to be special. I *do* think that.

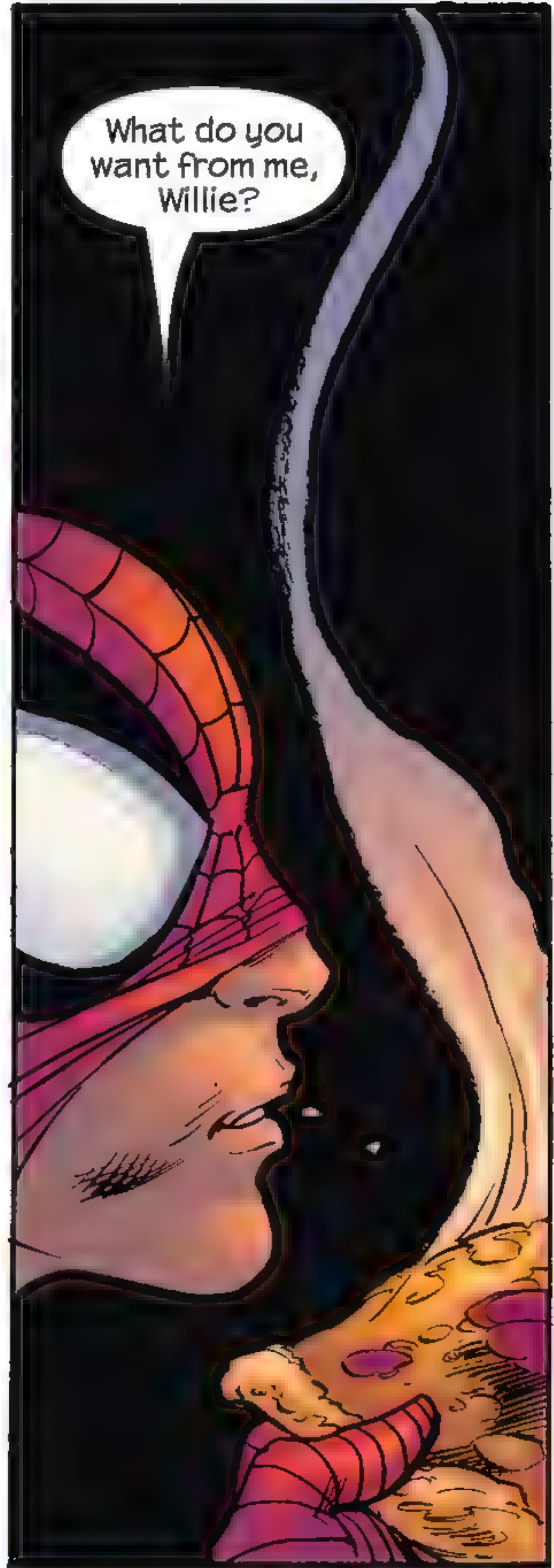
It *is* my philosophy.

They- people want to be told what to do and how to live and they want men like *me* to tell them.

They want to go to work and do as little as they can possibly get away with, and they want a big cookie at the end of the day for doing it.

And they want men like me to give it to them.

And if it wasn't me it *would* be someone else.



What do you want from me, Willie?

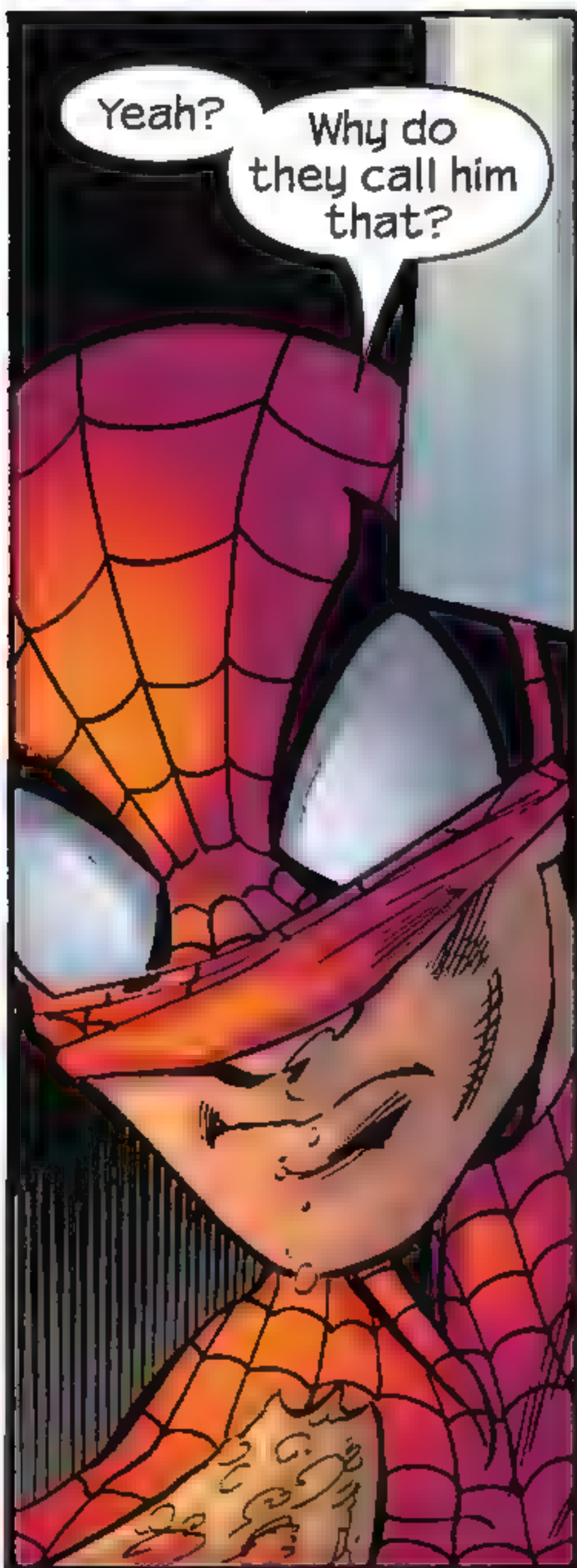


Here.

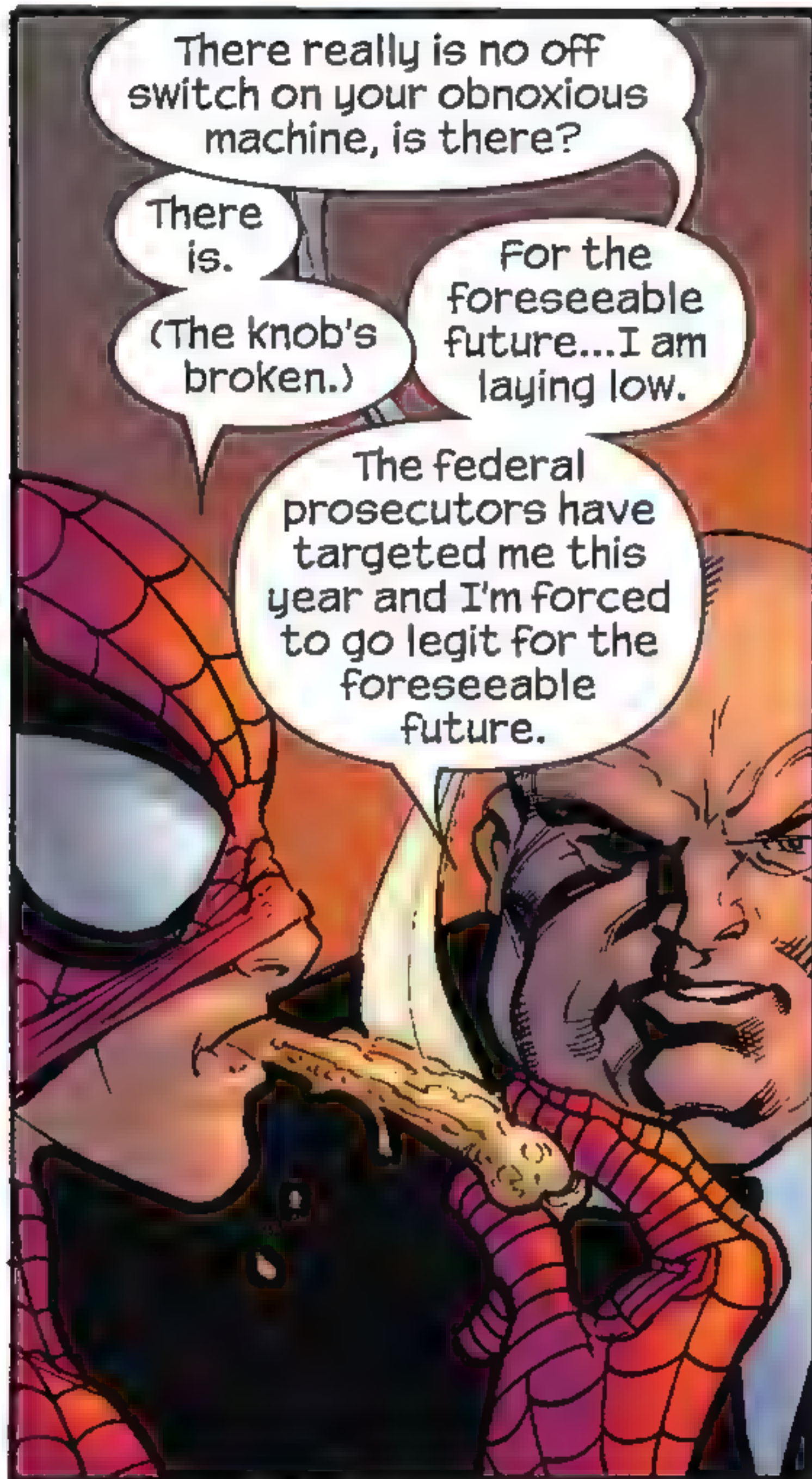




This is a man the streets call Hammerhead.



Yeah? Why do they call him that?

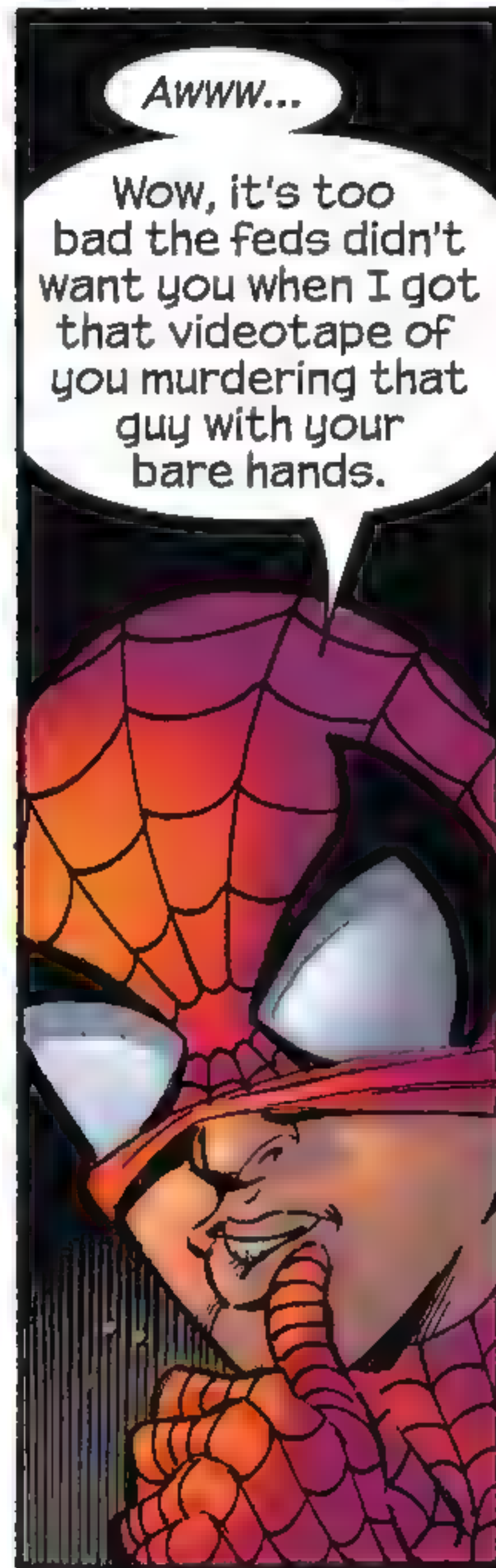


There really is no off switch on your obnoxious machine, is there?

There is.
(The knob's broken.)

For the foreseeable future...I am laying low.

The federal prosecutors have targeted me this year and I'm forced to go legit for the foreseeable future.



Awww...

Wow, it's too bad the feds didn't want you when I got that videotape of you murdering that guy with your bare hands.

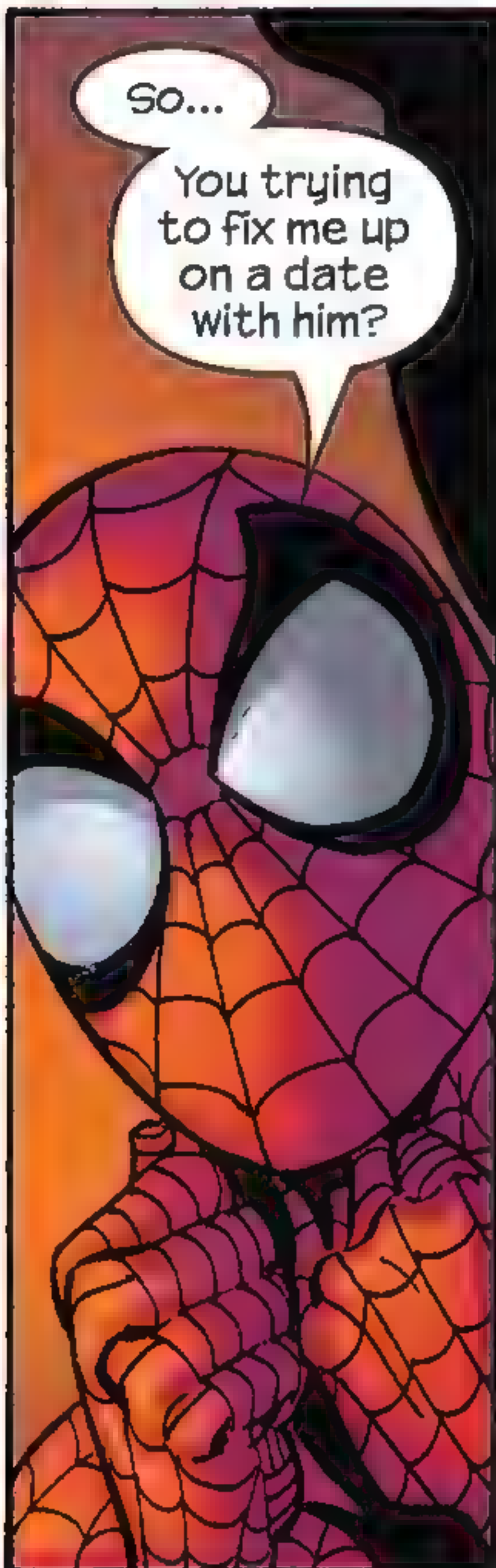


This man, this is the man who killed Silvio Manfredi two nights ago. This is the man who blew up my warehouse last night.

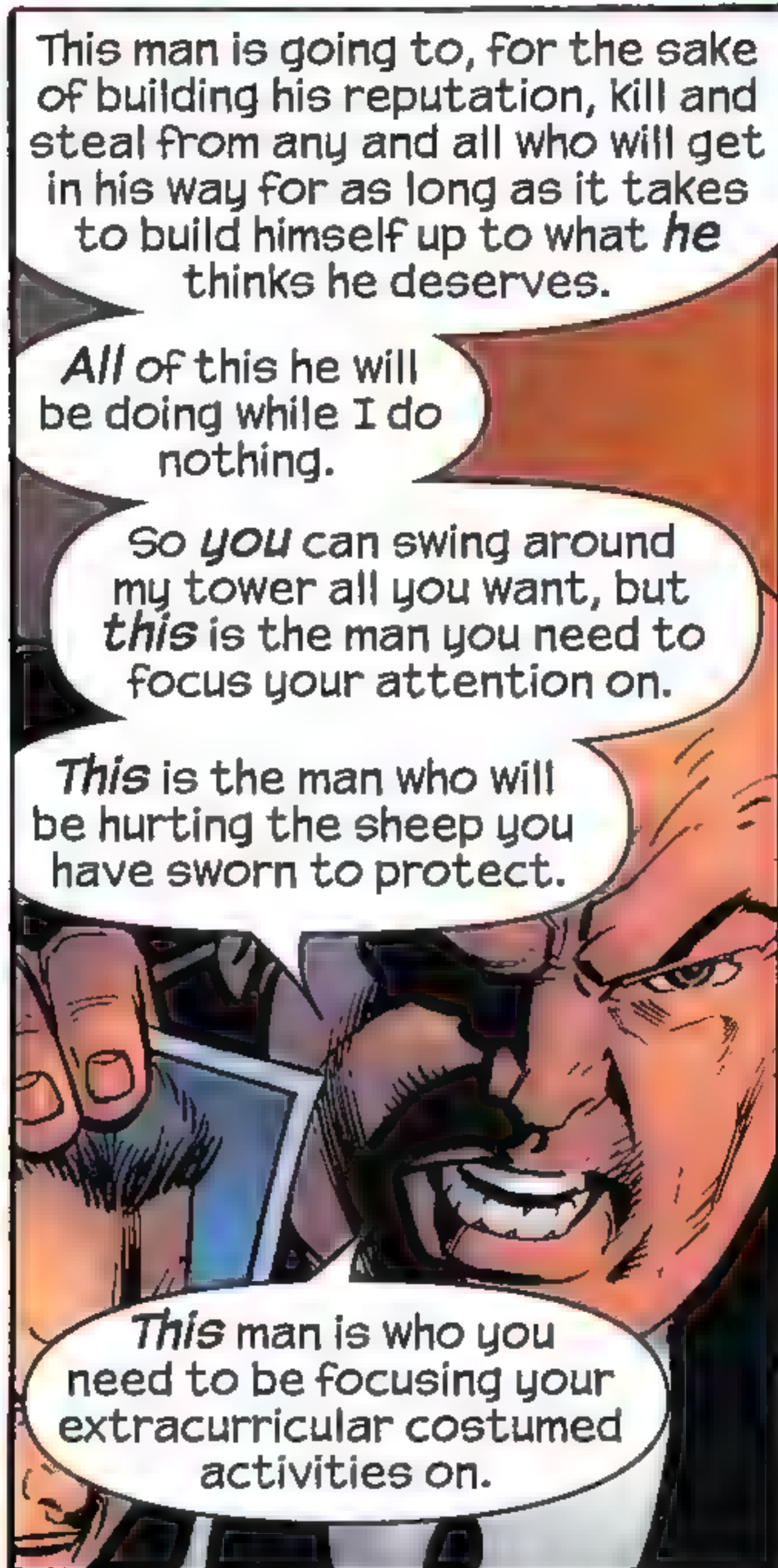
So says *you*.

He is making a play for my territories. Looking to take a bite for himself.

And he has severe anti-social behavior tendencies even for the circles I run in.



So... You trying to fix me up on a date with him?



This man is going to, for the sake of building his reputation, kill and steal from any and all who will get in his way for as long as it takes to build himself up to what *he* thinks he deserves.

All of this he will be doing while I do nothing.

So *you* can swing around my tower all you want, but *this* is the man you need to focus your attention on.

This is the man who will be hurting the sheep you have sworn to protect.

This man is who you need to be focusing your extracurricular costumed activities on.



Oh really.

He is *worse* than me because he has nothing to *lose* and everything to *gain*.

He is an immediate and unapologetic threat.

On the back there- this is where he can be found. This is where he is sleeping at night.



You want me to take *care* of him for you?



Not
for me.
For
you.



What?!!



This is
what you
do.
Fight the fights
worth fighting for
people who can't
fight for
themselves.
Here is someone
you need to fight...
and soon.



I am *not*
helping
you.



Hmmm...
It is a
conundrum for
you that this will
be both things.



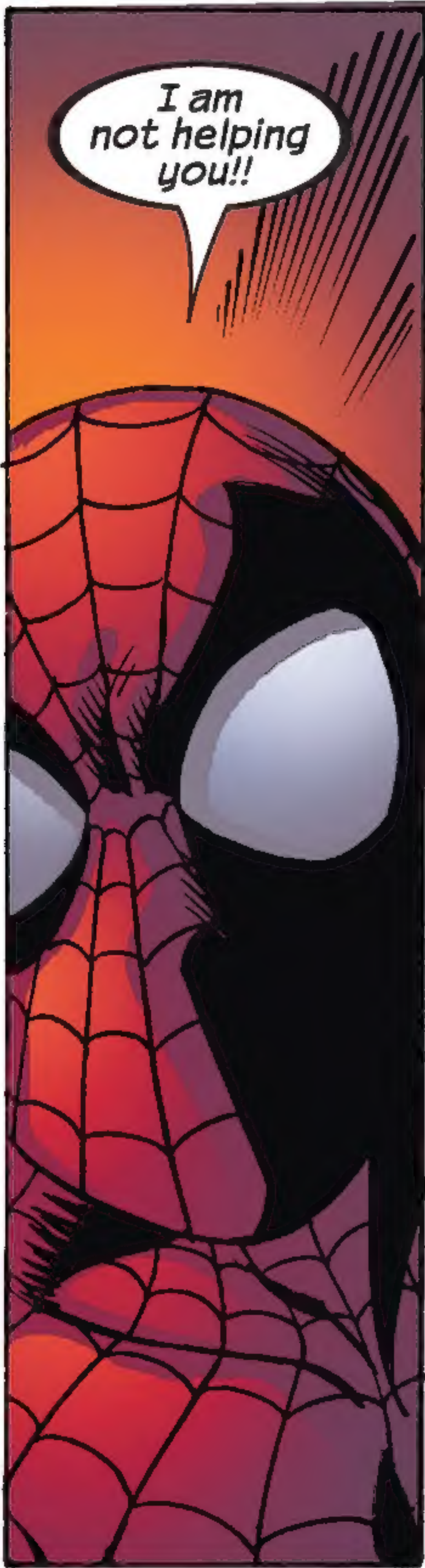
Says
you!



The man *murdered*
last night.
Men- men with families-
burned to death last night,
right in front of you.
And many
more will
suffer if *you*
don't stop
him.
The fact
that stopping
him helps me
should be
beside the
point.



You're the
"hero."
You're
supposed to
be *above* such
petty things.



ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

We got a record number of letters on issue 78—too early for anything on 79—so I'll try to shut up and see what you guys thought!

Dear *Ultimate Spider-Man*,

I am glad I finally have a chance to write you guys. I've been reading *Ultimate Spidey* since around issue 21, but I have bought the reprinted volume editions of the ones I missed. I am not too big a fan of the Ultimate universe, but I feel differently about *Ultimate Spider-Man*. Nobody matches the writing of Brian Michael Bendis nor the artwork of Mark Bagley!

I loved issue 78. It was lighthearted compared to all the other *Ultimate Spidey* issues. When MJ and Liz are sitting at the table in the mall cafeteria, there are some background people having a conversation about Senior Skip Day. I could swear that I have heard that before. And if memory serves me correctly I think it was issue 1. If I got it right, do I get a No-Prize? My dad told me Marvel used to give those out to people who could answer stuff like that.

From your fan,
Forrest Roberts
Via e-mail

Thanks, Forrest! Back in the day, No-Prizes were awarded for explaining things that seemed like mistakes in Marvel books (but of course weren't, because—come on—are we gonna make a mistake? (Or at least admit to one?))

So, no No-Prize—but very perceptive! Brian and Mark wanted to make us feel like MJ feels—like she's been catapulted back into the world she lived in before she was dating Peter!

Dear Marvel,

Okay, I have to admit I'm not a huge Spider-Man fan. Not that I don't like him, but I'm a Batman guy. So, what am I doing reading *Ultimate Spider-Man* every month?

My little brother is in 7th grade and Spider-Man is his favorite super hero. So a couple years ago, I sampled the top Spidey books and chose *USM* as the best of the bunch. I buy it, read and enjoy it, then mail it to my little bro when the arc is complete. My personal favorite is the Black Cat arc. The rooftop date is fabulous!

But issue #78 was special. Mary Jane's final moment knocked me out. So sweet! The entire issue, the scene leading up to, and especially the final moment were wonderfully handled by Bendis and Bagley. Mary Jane is now endeared to me forever. Thanks.

Believe it or not, none of that is the reason for this letter. I have been meaning to write this for quite some time. Mark Bagley deserves a special award for his work on this book. At a time when I'm grateful when one artist completes one arc on his own before jumping to another book, Mark has stuck with this book from issue one, does a fantastic job, and produces more than 12 issues a year!!! That's incredible!

On top of that, he is one of the best artists around at conveying emotion in the characters. I love that! Mark, your commitment, talent, and hard work are most definitely appreciated! Don't stop.

Sincerely,
Chuck McKinney
Hell's Kitchen, NYC

Thanks for sharing your issues with your brother! And you're absolutely right—Mark Bagley is a truly amazing artist, and he does an unbelievable job in getting this book out as often as it comes!

The Will Eisner reference in "Dumped" was well played. I have been reading this series from #1 and I am happy to see it is going strong. Thanks, Bendis.

Jake Topkis
Via e-mail

Glad you enjoyed it! Will Eisner was—is, even though he's no longer with us—one of the undeniable greats in comics, producing great work right up to the end.

I really like *Ultimate Spider-Man*. It's a very good comic. I think Mark Raxton is Peter Parker. Kinda looks like him. But I want to see more Spider-Man in action fighting the Kingpin. He's my favorite villain. Bagley's art is good also. I hope this series never gets another penciler.

Lewis Tuck
Via e-mail

Mark Raxton is Peter!?! Nobody else'd see that one coming...

Dear Ultimate Spidey Team,

Excellent job with what you have done in *Ultimate Spider-Man*, I have read every issue (up to 78, which was great) and loved them all! The only thing wrong with it would be if Bagley and Bendis left (I dread that day). I have a few questions on my mind.

1) Will you ever do a huge Ultimate team-up series where every character from the ultimate universe shows up?

2) Will the new Ultimate Spider-Man game on PS2 affect the continuity of the comic series because it is written by Bendis?

3) Will Venom have the white spider logo on his chest like the original one? (I hope he will, if not... c'est la vie).

Thanks for reading and keep up this "Ultimate" work (ha ha, I cracked a funny).

Ben Mitchell
Via e-mail

Thanks, Ben! To answer:

1) We're not going to do a big crossover where you have to buy a bunch of books you wouldn't ordinarily buy—that's just not the Ultimate style. But—check out the *Ultimate Galactus Trilogy* for big, Earth-shaking team-ups! *Ultimate Nightmare* (teaming the Ultimates with the Ultimate X-Men) is

out in paperback now and *Ultimate Secret* (teaming the Ultimates with the Ultimate Fantastic Four) has two issues out already—with the last two arriving in September and October!

2) The USM video game actually does take place in USM comic continuity—the first time anybody's ever done that with a game! Don't worry, you won't have to buy the video game to enjoy the comic—but from what Brian tells me, you won't want to miss this game!

3) Time will tell!

I have always been a fan of Spider-Man, even as a kid in the late 70's. I was never able to purchase many of the comics, because of my parent's limited finances at the time. Now, after all these years, I've found my way into my local comic book store, and to my surprise there were more adults my age than kids.

I started reading *Ultimate Spider-Man* and was amazed at how well the stories are written and the artwork today. In addition, it's nice to see Spider-Man more in today's world and dealing with today's issues. It would be nice to see Mary Jane take on a "sidekick" role, and help Spider-Man deal with some of his enemies. It would also be nice of you to issue some kind of limited issue for us true fans to hold onto.

I look forward to the next issue and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Caston Kid
Via e-mail

Well, Caston—I'm not sure if I can promise a "limited issue," but issue 100 isn't far off, and that might be just what you're looking for!

Dear Bendis and Staff,

I have never read a comic book in my life until I picked up *Ultimate Spider-Man Vol. 1* at Barnes & Noble. I don't know exactly why I bought it, but I did anyway. From the minute I read it I could not put it down, I read it all in one sitting.

After finishing *Ultimate Spider-Man*, I rushed to a local comic shop to grab more *Ultimate Spider-Man*, but then I saw so many comics that I started to grab different ones like *New Avengers*, *Ultimate X-Men*, *Ultimates*, *Captain America*, and so many more. Now I am spending \$30-plus a week on comics and I couldn't be any happier.

Ultimate Spider-Man was a gateway to so many more comics for me, and it will always be my favorite comic. I would have never discovered the joy of reading a comic if it wasn't for Bendis, Bagley, Hanna and all the staff at Marvel.

Thanks,
Jacques
Via e-mail

Now that's a story we like to hear!

Next: In two short weeks, be back to see if Peter makes a deal with the devil, as "Warriors" continues!

JOHN BARBER & NICOLE WILEY
ASSISTANT EDITORS

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN
c/o MARVEL COMICS

417 5TH AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10016

If you don't want your name and address printed, please let us know. Letters may be edited for content and length.

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

E-MAIL:
ULTIMATEOFFICE@MARVEL.COM

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